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## Designer HOMES

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80+

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Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100

See more on page 46

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY MIKE CUEVAS OF STUDIO 100

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## ERRATUM

The *Dolce Vita* bed by Natuzzi in the Best Buys section (May 2015, page 14) is available at MOs Design located at 3/F MOs Design Building, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Meanwhile, the Living Spaces story (June 2015, pages 82-91) is written by Reuben Ramas Cañete, Ph.D.



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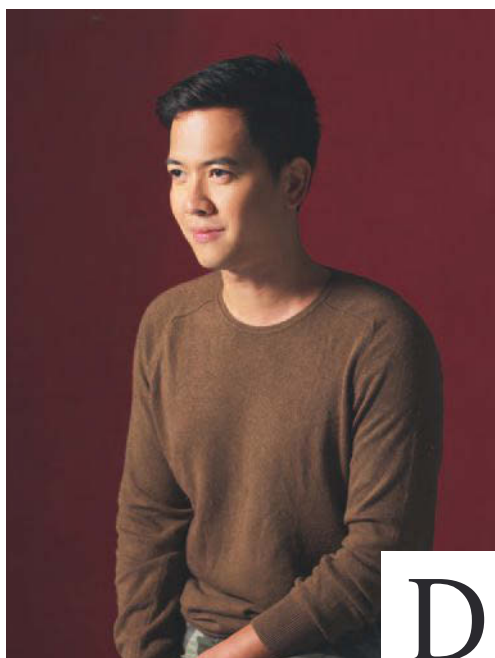
# Splenda

Kintab bago. Kintab Splenda.



## NIX PICKS

1. New old light table, available at KISH
2. Classic 1934 armchair by Gio Ponti for Molteni & C, available at Furnitalia
3. *Vortex* by Kenneth Cobonpue for Tumi
4. Black pepper and sandalwood perfume from Acca Kappa, available at Central Square Boutique



# Fuelled *by* Design

Designers play a big role in each of our lives—from the smartphones that we use, the clothes that we wear every morning, the vehicles we ride to work to the chair you're perhaps sitting on right now. All of these were, in fact, designed by someone to make our lives easier in one way or another.

There are so many opportunities for designers, myself included, to touch other lives with the things we create. Design allows us to evoke emotions, which emanate from the things we only used to imagine but are finally brought to life. It is a great responsibility to take on, but even greater is the designers' creative fulfilment in the end.

In this issue, we celebrate design as we feature Open House, a furniture gallery that showcases the work of many up-and-coming designers in the industry. We also take a peek inside the homes of Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Joyce Makitalo, both of whom are equally successful personalities in their chosen fields of design. As in every month, we bring you the latest styles in our Trends and Best Buys sections, along with a handful of inspirational articles worth reading this July.

Designed, engineered, or however you may want to call it, these creations help us live our lives more beautifully. We hope you enjoy reading this month's issue as much as we did putting it together.

**Nix Alañon**  
Editor-in-Chief







Italian Design is a detailed  
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houzz.com

# Bejeweled

Styling your space with a semi-precious gemstone

Produced by FTADesign | Written by Andrea Arines  
Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100

Since the beginning of the year, agate has grown to be a popular trend in both jewelry and interior design. The semi-precious stone, which is known to give off balancing and healing energy in *feng shui*, is a crowd favorite because of its translucency, natural swirl patterns, and color variations. Aside from stimulating a positive atmosphere, agate décor gives your space a luxurious appeal that also highlights the delicate beauty of nature. 🏠



Framed natural agate, P24,500, available at W/17



Agate tealight pillars, P3,465 (11 in.) and P3,604 (14 in.) available at Moss Manila Home



Lucite soap dispenser with agate, P3,098, available at Moss Manila Home

Lucite container box with agate, P2,850, available at Moss Manila Home



Agate coasters (set of 4), P7,697, available at Moss Manila Home

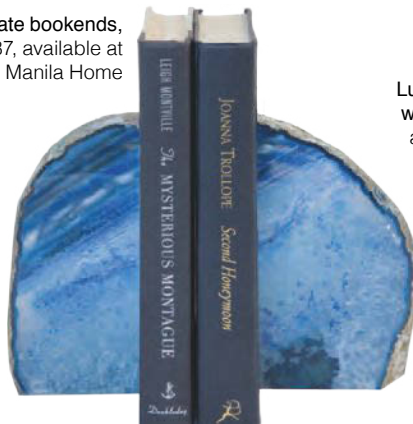


Agate table lamp, P54,500, available at W/17



Natural agate with base, P7,947, available at Moss Manila Home

Agate bookends, P9,387, available at Moss Manila Home



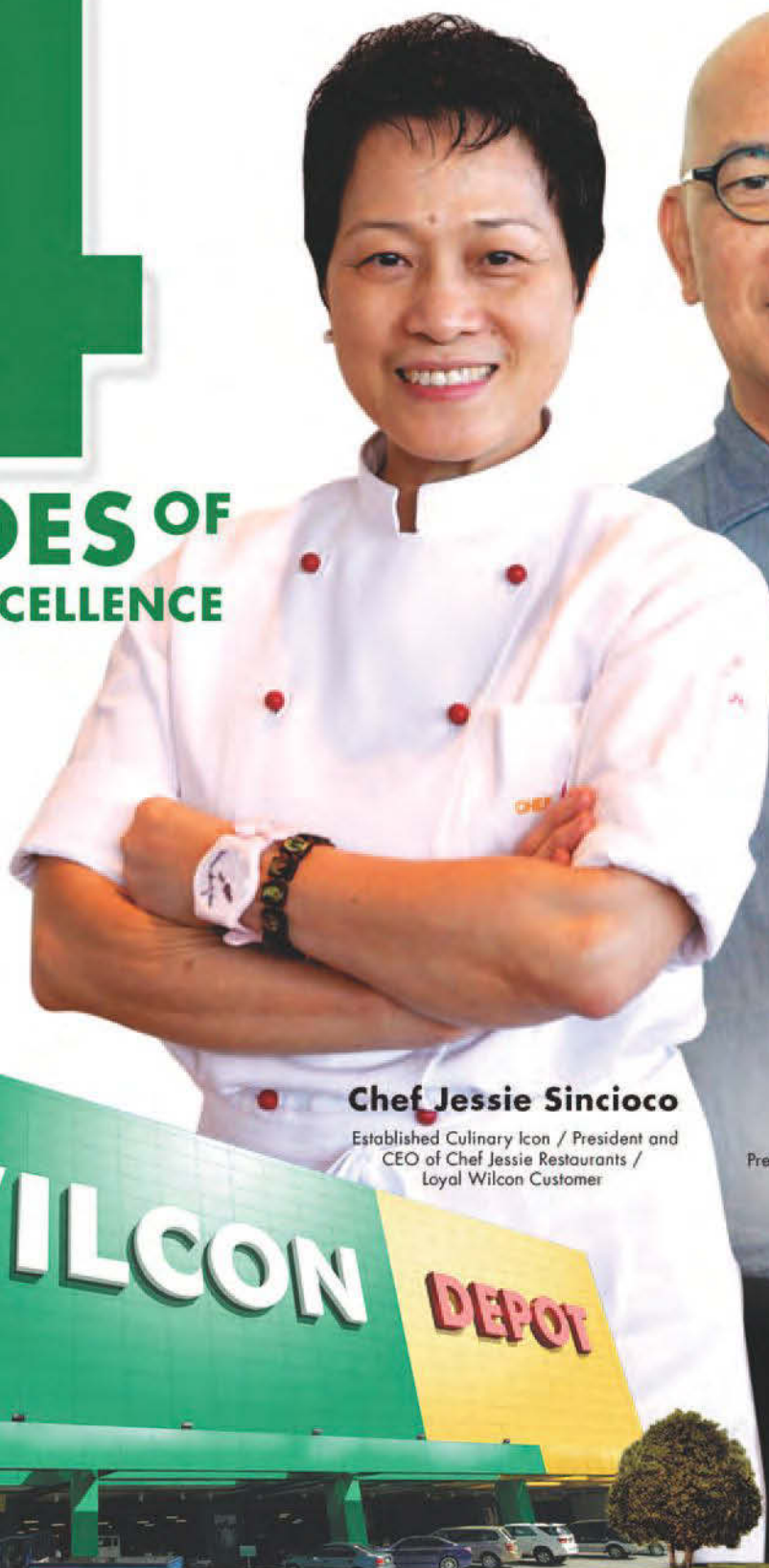
Chop box, P5,950, available at W/17





# 4

## DECADES OF BUILDING EXCELLENCE



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# Brass Act

Reviving the 80s trend on brass

Produced by FTADesign | Written by Andrea Arines  
Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100

After having been the go-to décor a couple of decades ago, brass is once again dominating homes. Its copper-like shine conveys restrained elegance, a quality that gives your room a tasteful appeal without being too striking. A contrast to commonly polished furnishings, the exquisiteness of brass lies in its ability to blend well in any design style. 🏠



pinterest.com



Khaki shagreen jar with bronze, P22,300, available at Blue Carreon Home



Cream shagreen hinged box, P9,600, available at Blue Carreon Home

Whale bone brass, P74,500, available at W/17



Beetle paper weight, P3,500, available at Blue Carreon Home



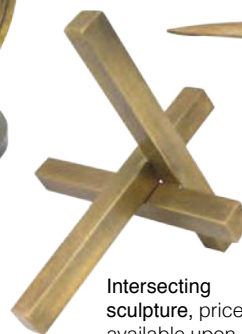
Lizard letter opener, P3,750, available at Blue Carreon Home



Table lamp, price available upon request at The Pietro Collection



Accent table, price available upon request at The Pietro Collection

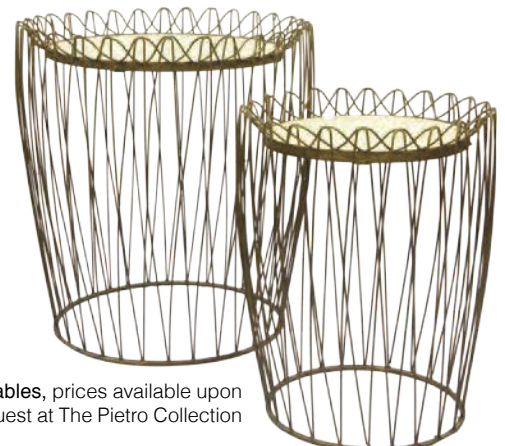


Intersecting sculpture, price available upon request at The Pietro Collection

Honeycomb photo frame, P4,500, available at KISH



Hammered oval brass tray, P10,000, available at KISH



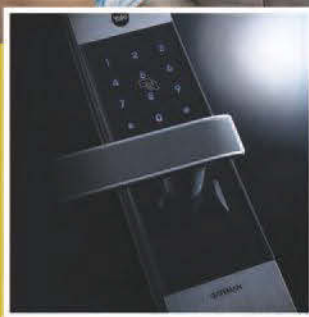
Richard tables, prices available upon request at The Pietro Collection



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# Crystal Clear

Seeing the exquisiteness of transparent pieces

Written by **Andrea Arines** | Photographed by **Mike Cuevas** and **Mark Jacob** of **Studio 100**  
Additional photos courtesy of **Furnitalia**, **Studio Dimensione**, and **Tom Dixon**

**M**aximize the available floor area in each of your rooms by decorating it with lucite furniture pieces, whose translucency or transparency creates the illusion of a bigger space. While it is ideal for minimalist themes, clear furniture pieces and accessories blend well with just about any color, pattern, or texture. The modern aesthetic of lucite also adds contrast to the commonly used metal and wood finishes, while at the same time injecting a classy appeal due to its acrylic finish. 🏠



pinterest.com

**Bouche table light**, price available upon request at Studio Dimensione



**Cyborg chair**, price available upon request at Studio Dimensione



**Reindeer bookends**, P10,710, available at Moss Manila Home



**Glass tube light** by Tom Dixon, price available upon request at MOS Design



**Vanity chair** by Stefano Giovannoni for Magis, price available upon request at Studio Dimensione



**Table** by Patricia Urquiola for Kartell, price available upon request at Dexterton



**Ducale coffee table** by Veblén, price available upon request at Furnitalia

**Bel Air test tube vase**, P14,298, available at Studio Dimensione



**Bel Air mini scoop vase**, P5,698, available at Studio Dimensione



**Candle holders**, price available upon request at The Pietro Collection



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# Finishing Touch

Top your floor with rugs that hold your furniture pieces together

*Written and styled by Toni Medina | Photographed by Mike Cuevas of Studio 100*

**R**ugs have been in use since the 5th century BC, thus it's no wonder they're considered the most popular and versatile floor covering solution. Before buying for every room, take the following factors into account: foot traffic, purpose of the space, comfort level, and design style of your home. Keep your rugs in tiptop shape with frequent thorough vacuuming, prompt spill clean-up, and periodic professional care and cleaning. 🏠



*All rugs available at Studio Eleven*

1. Abaca zigzag | 2. Pop PO1924 gray pop | 3. Mineral 2 MI29457 granite | 4. Mustang MU165-11 cream | 5. Zebrano ZE 478 simply taupe  
6. Ipanema IP 147 sandshell | 7. Quartz QU2708 light taupe





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# Pops of Personality

Define your style with throw pillows of different shapes, sizes, fabrics, and embellishments

Written by **Toni Medina** | Photos courtesy of **BoConcept**, **Ethan Allen**, and **Studio Vito Selma**

**W**hile most commonly used on sofas and armchairs, decorative pillows also serve their purpose on beds, daybeds, and even on the floor. They can tie elements of a room together when selected properly, so choose accent pillows that complement your drapes, walls, or area rugs. Aside from the colors and actual designs of the pillows, it may be useful to also decide on the size, shape, and fabric based on what suits the style of your space. 🏠



Price available upon request at Phoenix Home, designed by Vito Selma



Price available upon request at Ethan Allen



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# Timeless Investments

Transform your rooms into impressive spaces with these designer chairs

Written by Toni Medina | Photos courtesy of Furnitalia, KISH, Poliform, and Studio Dimensione

Throughout history, chair design has evolved to reflect new materials and technologies, design trends, and developments in ergonomics. This paved the way for designer chairs to emerge in endless variations, but finding the right one for your home can still be a formidable task. Start by understanding what you like and what you feel will work best in your space. Also practice experimenting with colors, prints and patterns, and materials. Wood and leather are classic options, while polished pieces fit a more modern aesthetic. 🏠



*Swing armchair* by Carlo Colombo for Giorgetti, price available upon request at Furnitalia



*Tilt armchair* by Carlo Colombo for Giorgetti, price available upon request at Furnitalia



*Drop chair* by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen, price available at Studio Dimensione



*Mad chair*, price available upon request at Poliform

*LC2 Maison La Roche* armchair by Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, and Charlotte Perriand for Cassina, price available upon request at Furnitalia



*Woodline armchair* by Marco Zanuso for Cassina, price available upon request at Furnitalia



*Antropus armchair* by Marco Zanuso for Cassina, price available upon request at Furnitalia



*Batibot chair* by Ito Kish, price available upon request at KISH





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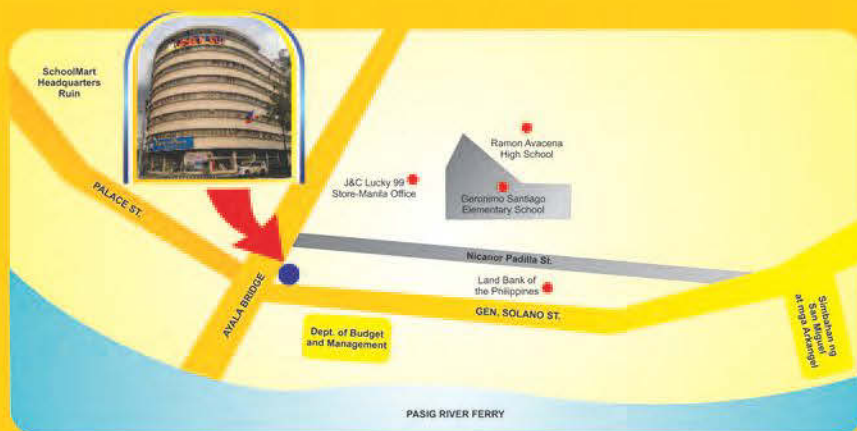


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LET'S SHOP

# Design Essentials

Give your home a much-needed update with these practical finds from **MC Home Depot**

Produced by **Andrea Arines** | Photographed by **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**

**B**uying pieces for the home can be a challenging task, but MC Home Depot eases that burden and makes things easier for you. The one-stop shop offers a wide array of products from construction materials to furniture pieces to accessories—all of which are essential for both quick home updates and major renovations. In this issue, we rounded up practical finds that can bring your home's design style a notch higher. 🏠



**Soho wallpaper**, P4,500/roll, available at Wall Crown Design Center, Inc.



**Table lamp wood**, P5,500 available at Luminor



**Lounge chair**, P26,000, available at La Vida Verde



**Accessories**, P2,095 (small), P2,595 (medium), and P3,695 (large), available at Design & Style Home Furnishing



**Modern side lamp**, P11,826, available at Vens Light & Leisure



**Clamrose hanging lamp**, P5,500, available at Robles Heritage

**Woodlook**, P230/sq.ft., available at ARpa Magic Décor Corporation



**Triple black shade**, P7,000, available at De-light and Lamp Enterprises



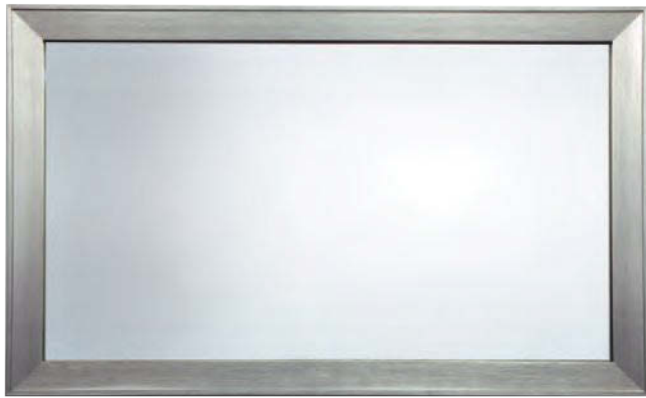
**Floor lamp**, P30,188 available at Lights @ Play



**Jett 3-seater sofa**, P5,890, available at Life So Easy







Mirror with frame  
(26 in. x 43 in.), P4,200,  
available at Mirage  
Glass Supply

Pantry chair,  
P1,899, available  
at Design & Style  
Home Furnishing



Floor lamp  
P7,800,  
available at  
Lights Option

Floor lamp,  
P5,200, available  
at Lights Option

Lamett solid wood  
(Black Amber),  
P6,250.00/sq.m.,  
available at Design Source



Metal H20 table lamp,  
P8,300, available at Keystone  
Lamps & Shade



Paris accent chair,  
P25,965, available  
at Design & Style  
Home Furnishing



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# New, Now, Next

Find out what the latest news and products are



## *European Flair*

French doors lead you to Dhalton Home, the newest furniture gallery located in what is becoming to be Quezon City's most coveted neighborhood. It is the brainchild of interior designer Geoffrey Chua, who has a penchant for European-inspired pieces that have been modernized to fit an urban dweller's lifestyle. Reminiscent of royal manors and luxury estates, Dhalton Home is filled to the brim with carefully designed pieces from Denmark, handcrafted finds from Asia, and locally produced quality furnishings. Drop by Dhalton Home at the ground floor of The Magnolia Residences, N. Domingo Street, New Manila, Quezon City. For inquiries, call (02) 806 1327 or visit [dhalton.com](http://dhalton.com).



## *It's Spring Time*

Defined by the fresh colors of a serene shore, the spring collection of Crate and Barrel transforms your home into a relaxing escape. The seasonal accessories and entertaining essentials bathed in rich blues, soft turquoises, crisp whites, and elegant neutrals reflect the furnishing brand's casual decorating style. Tagged with affordable price points, this new collection encourages you to bring the outdoors in with bright prints and patterns, as well as various shapes and textures, inspired by nature. See more of Crate and Barrel's shore-inspired spring collection in their recently opened store at 3/F SM Aura, McKinley Parkway, Taguig.







## *Lifestyle Hub*

The newly constructed Twenty-four Seven McKinley building is now home to the biggest showroom yet of Focus Global Inc., the exclusive Philippine distributor of premium home furnishings brands. Intended to be the ultimate destination for every design enthusiast, the showroom consists of five expansive floors that feature Focus Global's growing roster of luxury brands. The list includes furniture brands B&B, Maxalto, and Ethan Allen; bathroom fixtures brands Dornbracht and Villeroy & Boch; kitchen systems and appliances brands Siematic, Miele, and Sub-Zero; and window treatment experts Hunter Douglas and Pella. Focus Global's showroom is open from 10am to 7pm on Mondays to Saturdays, and from 1pm to 6pm on Sundays. For inquiries, call (02) 634 8587 or visit [focusglobalinc.com](http://focusglobalinc.com).



## *UK's Retail Giant*

John Lewis, the famous chain of quality department stores operating throughout Great Britain, has landed on Philippine shores and is slated to open a total of 11 branches nationwide. The brand originated as a design studio specializing in textiles until it branched out into bed and bath essentials, decorative accessories, tableware, and gift selections. The same wide range of own-brand home products are offered at the first dedicated John Lewis department at SM Home in SM Makati's fifth level.



## *Sun, Sand, and Sea*

Pottery Barn's latest collection pays tribute to the great outdoors. Aside from their stylish selection of wicker furniture, the brand also introduces pillows in diverse patterns and color combinations, shatterproof melamine dinnerware for entertaining, affordable accents in turquoise blue, and metallic pieces that fit well in any space. Pottery Barn Kids, in the same manner, signals that it's time for some fun in the sun with their colorful and soft beach towels, beddings in sea-inspired colors and designs, and nautical accents for your child's nursery. Pottery Barn and Pottery Barn Kids are exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with branches located in Central Square and Estancia.



## *Health is Wealth*

A good night's sleep is scientifically proven to promote your health and well-being. Uratex, the leader in providing the best sleep solutions, emphasizes the importance of purchasing the right mattress with their Premium Mattress Collection. The Premium Touch collection, pictured above, boasts of individually wrapped pocket springs that follow the shape of your body even as you turn and natural latex foam that relieves your body's pressure points. To learn more about Uratex Premium Mattresses, call (02) 888 6800 or visit [uratex.com.ph](http://uratex.com.ph).



# Lithocast Baths



## **Abrazo.**

With an organic oval shape inspired by clay pottery, the Abrazo bath makes a striking focal point for your contemporary bathroom. Lithocast, a unique solid-surface material has the attractive matte finish of smooth stone but feels warm to the touch and is easy to clean. An integral slotted overflow allows for the deepest possible water level, and a center toe-tap drain with cover completes the stylish design.

KOHLER.PH



Abrazo.



Askew.



Aliento.

# KOHLER®

# Equilibrium

Two well-known interior designers balance signature style with client preferences

*Produced by Cy Yambao*

**T**hey say the first step is always the hardest, and such rings true in the world of interior design. When faced with the dreaded problem of not knowing where and how to begin, it is the experienced interior designers who can save the day and translate your empty home into a personality-driven space. This month, we feature two of the household names in the industry, who have both defined their signature design style but are equally considerate of their clients' preferences.



**ROSSY YABUT ROJALES**  
heiminteriors.com

If there are three words that would swiftly come to mind upon seeing the residential and commercial projects of IDr. Rossy Yabut Rojas, these would be colors, patterns, and textures. "I love bright colors! Personally, I feel that colors are the best way to add character and emotions to the space," the creative director of interior design firm Heim Interiors confesses. "I'm currently into pastels, then combining them with brass and copper. Color selection is actually a mind-challenging task that I happen to enjoy."

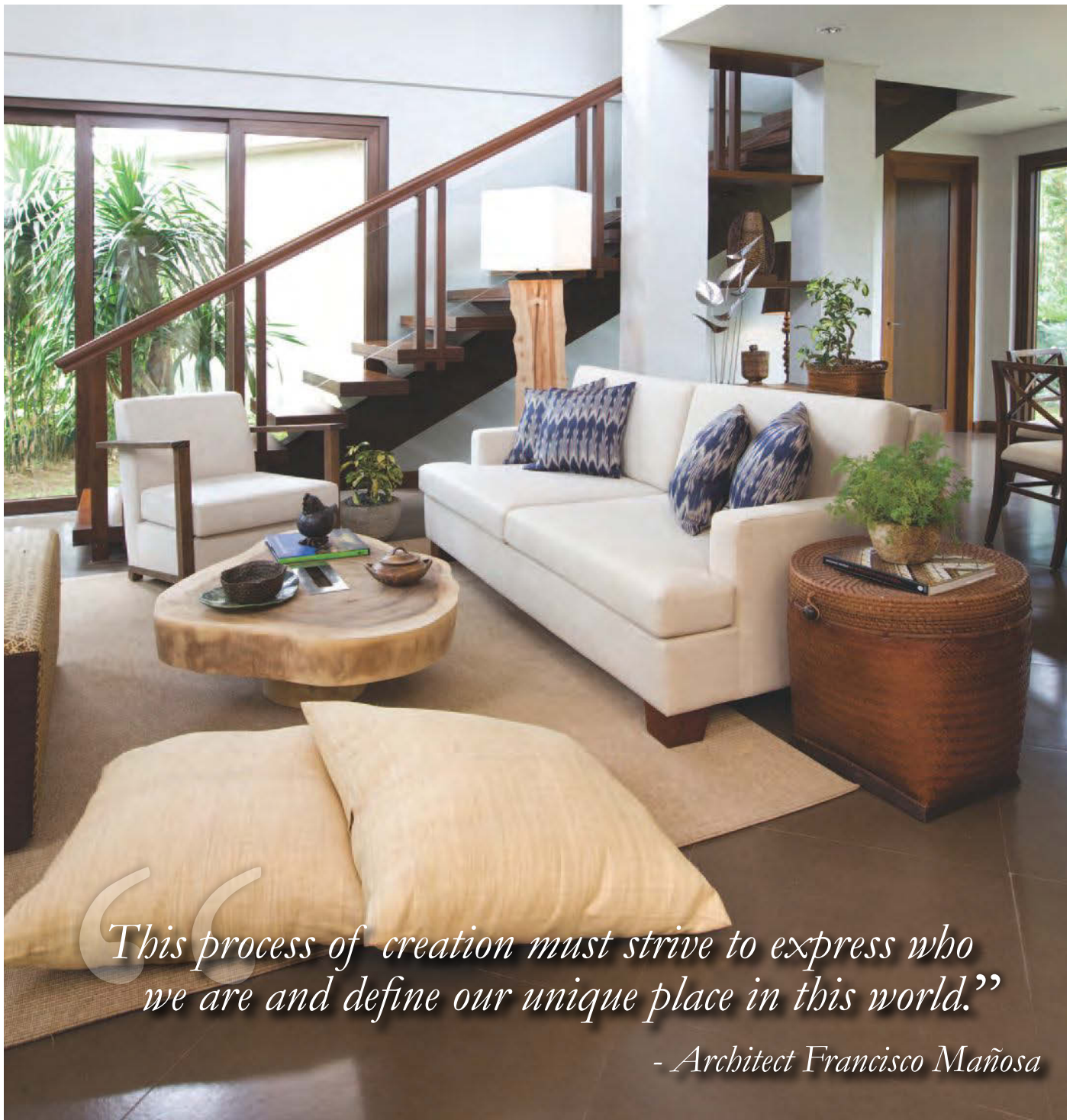
Rossy comes up with vibrant color palettes in the same way she mixes and matches different design styles to give character to a space. "French classic furniture pieces with a modern twist are a personal favorite," she shares. "But as an interior designer, it's second nature for me to design pieces specifically for a certain project." Lighting likewise plays a significant role in Rossy's projects, but it all depends on the lifestyle and preferences of her clients. "I adjust the specifications based on how they want it, what is comfortable for them, and what the purpose for that space is," she says. "We make sure that our clients have different lighting options for different occasions."



## ON LAYERING PRINTS AND PATTERNS:

"Lay out everything in a table or a color board to make it easier for you to visualize. I like emphasizing the patterns by adding solid colors like gray and white to balance the whole look. The prints and patterns should tie all the colors in the room—these should blend well with the space and not pop out from all the other elements. At the end of the day, use your instincts when deciding which ones to use."





*“This process of creation must strive to express who we are and define our unique place in this world.”*

*- Architect Francisco Mañosa*

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## DESIGNER TIPS

### CHAT SAYS:

"Don't keep useless pieces. I believe in giving items a second life, so if they are not fit for you, just sell them or give them away. Try to de-clutter your spaces."



**CHAT FORES**  
[chatfores.com](http://chatfores.com)

"My overall aesthetic can't be pinned down to one style," admits Chat Fores, the founder of Chat Fores Design

Studio that has been in the industry since 2002. Chat likes playing with a lot of details, so the interiors of her residential, commercial, and corporate projects range from classicism and modern to Oriental and eco glam to a mix of varying periods and styles. "One thing that makes them all similar is the dose of drama I try to introduce in the form of a huge patterned mirror, graphic walls, or oversized furniture pieces. I make it a point to add a whimsical element to invigorate our everyday lives and inject positive vibes," she says.

Since color psychology plays an important role in Chat's projects, she always considers the function of the space before deciding on what color palette can enhance the mood. "I personally like monochromatic schemes—I love ecru and all shades that pertain to that color like milk, cream, and vanilla. Black, white, and gray are also staples in my work," she shares. Chat's projects are punctuated by carefully selected lighting fixtures, in which she anchors the look of every room. "No color matters if the lighting is terrible," she says. "I sometimes choose the main lighting fixture first, and then every design detail just follows."

*"One thing that makes all my projects similar is the dose of drama I try to introduce"*

**ON CHOOSING FURNITURE PIECES:** "Create a storyboard for your space. Plan the components of the room, determine the period or style you prefer, and identify the purpose of the area. Remember that furniture pieces are not for display but are instead made to be used, so ensure that these are comfortable and suitable to the space. Also choose materials and finishes that you know will last, as good investments always pay off." 🏡



 **GEBERIT**

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# Let Light In

Crown your rooms with lighting fixtures that speak of quality and luxury

*Produced by Camille del Rosario | Photos courtesy of Schema, Steltz, and Lucem*

Although often underrated, lighting is just as important as your major furniture pieces. Having the right lighting fixtures can instantly set the right mood for your spaces. Whether you opt for general or accent lighting, what matters at the end of the day is how it seamlessly highlights and complements each piece in the room. We've gathered stores in the metro that offer stylish lighting fixtures to brighten up your space. 🏠



## Schema

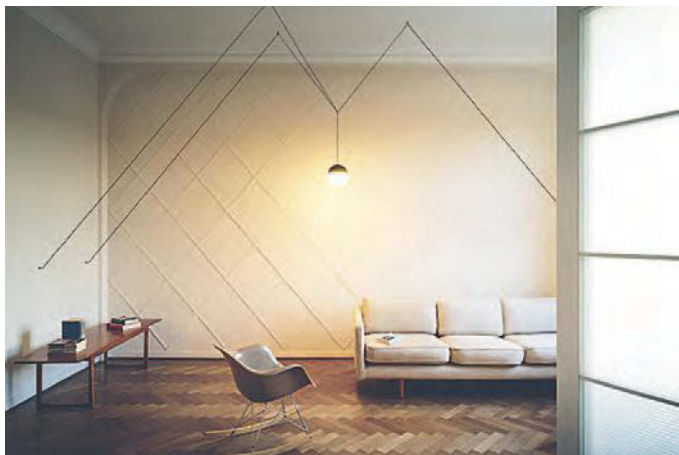
Schema promises to give life and inject character to every home. What makes its products different from others can be seen in the details. Crafted by local artisans, Schema takes pride in weaving metal by hand, thus resulting in one-of-a-kind pieces. Its products include pendant lights, table and floor lamps, and other home accessories.

**Address:** Upper Buhangin Street, Sitio Tagbac, San Jose, Antipolo City  
**Phone:** (02) 736 5641  
**Email:** info@schemaproduct.com  
**Website:** schemaproduct.com

## Steltz

For over three decades, Steltz has been the pioneer in bringing in various international brands and designer lighting fixtures that aren't available elsewhere in the country. Pieces designed by FLOS (the world leader in decorative iconic lights), Vistosi, William and Annet van Egmond, and Iris Cristal, to name a few, are now within reach. From simple to intricately designed lighting fixtures, Steltz offers the local market carefully curated and high quality pieces that will give character to any room.

**Address:** 6/F East Wing, EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City  
**Phone:** (02) 642 1421, 470 1617  
**Website:** steltzinternational.com

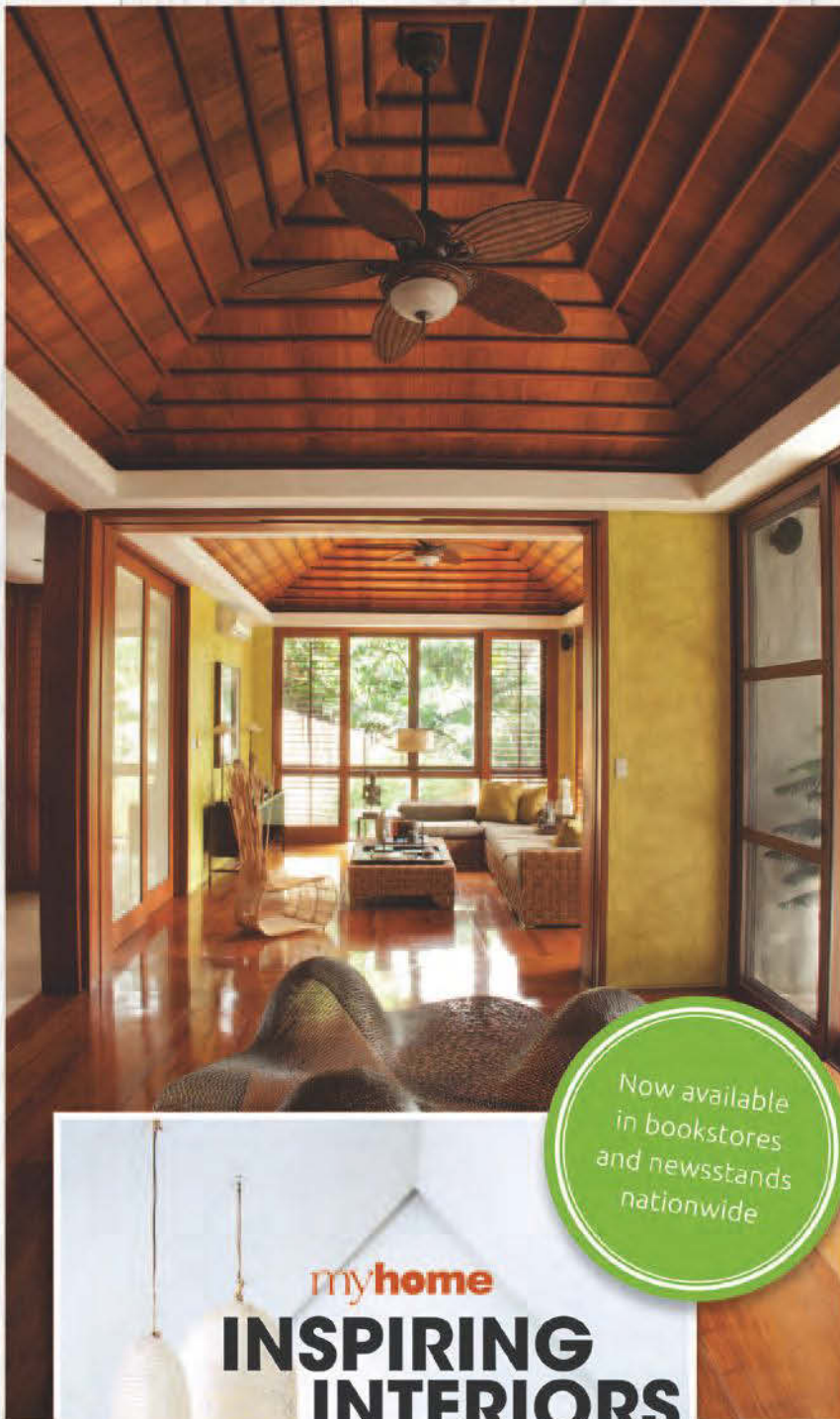


## Lucem

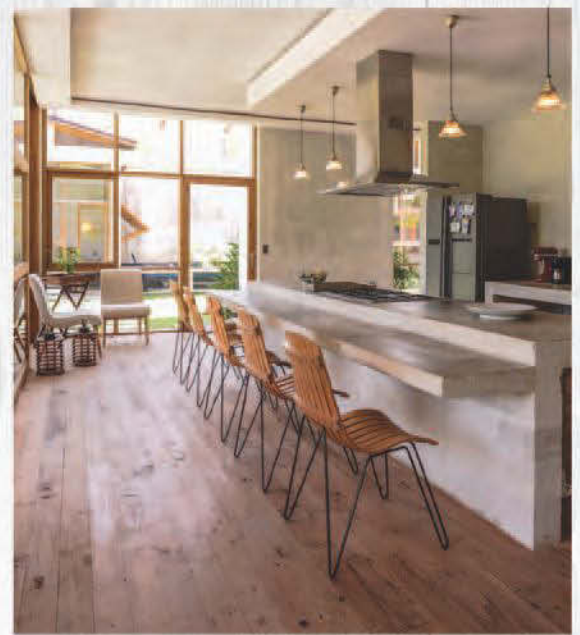
From the same company who brought Calligaris, Cassina, and other international brands to Philippine shores, Furnitalia now introduces designer lighting fixtures through their lighting showroom, Lucem. A part of its collection of lighting fixtures comes from an exquisite line of products from Venini, which distinctively uses Murano glass for lighting and home products; Fontana Arte, which specializes in contemporary lighting designs; and Pallucco, which combines elements of art, architecture, and design. These lighting fixtures will surely bring functional luxury in the midst of your home.

**Address:** Crescent Park West, 30th Street Corner Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig  
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# Against the Wall

Innovative shelving systems to make your spaces more functional than usual

*Written by* **IDr. Joy Merryl Ngo** | *Photographed by* **Ed Simon of Studio 100**

From being a mere storage for books, shelves have evolved into multifunctional home staples.

**I** While efficiency remains to be the top requirement when installing shelving systems, a lot of the available options today prove to be worthy buys because of their innovative designs. In this issue, we present five trendy and smart shelving systems that perform more than their expected purpose. 



## HIDE AND SEEK

One of the most common challenges that homeowners have to face involves unconcealed wires and cords, especially in the living area. This low cabinet shelf incorporates an enclosed storage compartment, which can make unnecessary clutter less noticeable, if not fully covered. Aside from serving a dual purpose, its color complements a modern style home and its polished finish brings sophistication to the space.





#### BACK TO BASICS

This bookshelf is the perfect example of how a versatile shelving system must look like. Its open design evokes an airy ambiance and injects a classic appeal to the dining area.

Despite being simple in terms of color and layout, this bookshelf has a glass drawer in bronze that adds to its elegance. Pair it with modern furniture pieces bathed in warm, neutral tones, but avoid mixing it with silver, chrome, or pastel hues.



**LUXURIOUS ENTERTAINMENT**

If your family's idea of a good time is watching movies or playing video games, this entertainment storage system is the most ideal. Its size spans an entire wall, but instead of highlighting your giant television screen, you may divert all the attention to your display of valuable accents. The glass drawers and sliding cabinet door follow the same palette as the entire system's subtle bronze finish, making them seamlessly blend with the modern yet classic design aesthetic.







**CENTERSTAGE**

When you can't decide between showing off your valuable figurines or keeping them behind cabinet doors, purchase this shelving system that allows for both. The minimal use of colors creates a clean look that complements your contemporary furniture pieces. You may set the shelving system against a patterned wall to make it seem like an accent shelf, in which you can constantly mix and match your displays.





#### MONOCHROMATIC

Integrating a writing desk to wall shelves, this particular system is a straightforward way of making design and function meet. While its scale depends on the height of your wall, the main idea is being able to utilize your room's floor area through space-saving furniture pieces. The use of only a single color in two varied shades is perfect for minimalist themes, but you may introduce linear patterns for added character.

# Conversation Starters

These statement pieces show how artistic designs can define interior spaces

Written by IDr. Joy Merryll Ngo | Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100

When a furniture piece wins in the aesthetically pleasing category, you always worry that its functionality might not live up to expectations. These eight spaces adorned by eccentric pieces prove that out-of-the-box designs are not just art, but are instead standout items that explain why accent pieces are essential to every home. While it might be a risk to incorporate designs that don't necessarily fit your main theme, you should never limit yourself to conventional items and trendy furnishings. **mh**



**NEO-COUNTRY WOODEN STOOLS**  
by Capellini, available at Studio Dimensione

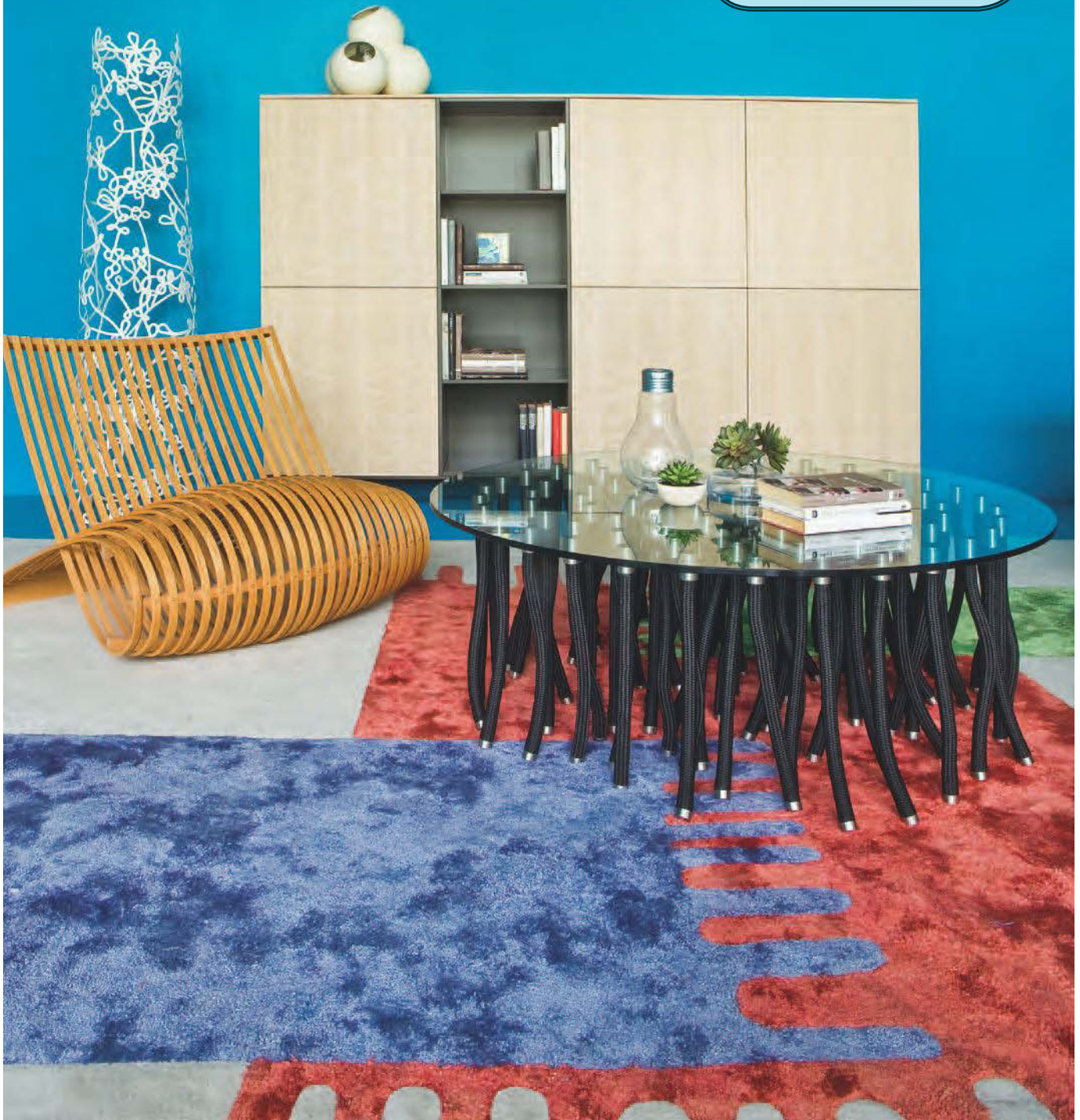
These low-back wooden accent chairs can be placed opposite or adjacent to your buffet cabinet, or simply on one side of the room. While you don't often see conversational pieces in the dining room, it would be interesting to add these chairs to your space, as they can be used as an extension of your dining table when entertaining. The pair can complement contemporary interiors because of the neutral upholstery and wood finish that convey a warm ambience.



**ZIGO-ZAGO COFFE TABLE**

by C. Colombo for Capellini,  
available at Studio Dimensione

This coffee table may look basic in form—until you get a closer look of its numerous supporting legs. Each leg is flexible and movable, thus giving your guests the illusion of having a firm but invisible support to hold the glass top. Aside from its intriguing legs, the coffee table's sleek design also makes it seem light and adaptable to any interior concept.





**RUCHE COUCH**

by Inga Sempe for Ligne Roset,  
available at MOs Design

This three-seater sofa speaks of both sophistication and minimalism, as evident in the contrast between a metal foundation and a tufted cushion. Its versatile design can be paired with a wide range of furniture styles and color palettes, and the choice of fabric gives your family and friends a lasting impression in terms of comfort level.





**REWRITE STUDY TABLE**

by Ligne Roset, available  
at MOs Design

Focus on tasks at hand with this cocoon-shaped writing desk, which is primarily designed to give you more privacy while working. The desk made from walnut wood comes with a white lacquered steel storage chest, whose fiberglass shell is covered in Divina wool for better sound absorption. Available in various colors, this irregularly shaped writing desk can be complemented by a wooden chair or any typical low-back office chair.



**EYE SHADOW LAMP**

by Marcel Wanders for Capellini,  
available at Studio Dimensione

It is quite impossible not to notice this heavily printed floor lamp, whether it is displayed in the living room, dining room, or bedroom. With its street art-like prints, this magnified version of your usual table lamp blends well in modern or minimalist rooms because it is a welcome break from the neutral color palettes and linear forms. Its size can also cover unwanted corners or gaps between pieces of furniture.





### **MAMBA LIGHT SHELVES**

by Victor Vasilev for MDF Italia,  
available at Studio Dimensione

Mount your wall shelves in the most creative way by playing around with levels and alternating colors of your choice. This shelving system that doubles as a desk might be sleek and simple, but it is solid enough to carry a heavy load. Moreover, it can serve as wall art, especially in areas with high ceiling. Place the hanging shelves in light and neutral-colored walls—even treated ones like bricks or concrete finish—but avoid setting them against wallpapers with busy patterns.





**BLOOM PENDANT LIGHT**

by Ligne Roset, available  
at MOs Design

From afar, you wouldn't be able to tell that this lighting fixture crowning the dining area is made from foam. It appears to be black metal, but is actually a lightweight material that produces a delicate yet sustainable pendant light. With its inventive form, it is recommended that you use this specific lighting fixture over a simple round table or in between two lounge chairs.





**BEAT PENDANT LIGHTS**

by Tom Dizon, available  
at MOs Design

Vases are one of the most used yet seldom appreciated décor in the home. Give that common ornament a twist with this set of vase-inspired lighting fixtures, which serves as an interesting sight while indulging on scrumptious meals. Its various shapes produce different light angles, while its form and color make it similar to a sculptural piece.





# NEUTRAL GROUNDS

How the subtle introduction of color into a previously white space redefined this luxe home

*Written by* **Andrea Portugal** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**





The living room is adorned by Asian contemporary design elements. Being a project that involved careful editing, the owners worked very closely with lifestyle consultant Tania Fricke Lichauco to see their vision through. "Tania and I would communicate through Viber. I would send her photos of the things I liked to make sure they go with the whole look of the apartment," says the owner. "After all, I believe that in the end, your home should reflect your own personality. And I'm happy to say that Tania understands our wants and needs, both aesthetically and functionally."



Warm tones in the living room create a cozy inviting atmosphere, while straight lines keep the space contemporary and modern. "My husband and I first lived as a married couple in Hong Kong, and some of the pieces you see are from there. We moved back to the Philippines in 2003 and feel lucky to have found this apartment," says the owner. "Being the model unit of the building, it was the last and only unit available for sale and was in perfect condition. When we moved in, the only thing we had to do was add curtains."







**Left:** Asian elements in the foyer lend delightful textures and forms to the otherwise modern space, giving it depth and a uniquely charming feel. “At first, we didn’t know how to define the style we wanted, so we showed Tania pegs from books, magazines, and the web,” shares the owner. “She immediately knew what we wanted and described it as luxe.” **Right:** Vibrant plants used in the foyer and throughout the home add an organic layer that keeps it looking fresh and lively. Ceramic jars and vases balance out the more contemporary furniture pieces displayed in the home.

There is power in color. In fact, an entire branch of Psychology is dedicated to the study of color—its impact on people’s behavior, emotions, habits, and way of life. There is a science to it that is pretty impressive, considering how one color can affect a person’s life on a large scale. Hence, choosing what colors to use in one’s home is no light matter, especially if you’ve spent years living in a predominantly white space.

Such is how the story unfolded for the owners of this cozy modern home. “After 11 years, we started to tire of wood and white, and both agreed that the apartment needed a facelift,” says the owner of the decision she and her husband came to with regards to renovating. “We love to travel, so we thought of recreating the look and feel of some of the places we visited.”

Given the plunge they were about to take, the couple knew they needed the help of a professional. “We knew our limitations and agreed that we needed someone to help us execute what we wanted in terms of

design and style; someone whose taste matched with ours,” shares the lady of the house. “The first person that came to mind happened to be a good childhood friend of mine, Tania Fricke Lichauco, who is also a lifestyle consultant.” With Tania’s input and guidance, the home was infused with refreshing warm hues that didn’t overwhelm the senses.

“We spent several sessions collaborating with Tania. We wanted to add more life to our home through the use of colors and textures. With the exception of the kitchen, none of the walls are white, but we still stuck to neutral colors,” the owner explains. “We used a lot of metal and wood combinations, and the use of wallpaper added texture and finished the look.”

Renowned Impressionist painter Edouard Manet once said, “Above all, keep your colors fresh!” If he were to walk into this home himself, he would undoubtedly nod his head in approval and tip his hat off for a job well done. 🏠

Deep rust-orange upholstered chairs in the dining room provide a rich sophisticated vibe that manages to be down-to-earth at the same time. The gold pendant lamp over the dining table adds texture and a break from the many hard angles in the room. "My husband and I both have the same taste when it comes to home décor. We hardly ever disagree on a piece we acquire for our home. We have an agreement to only buy things that we both like; otherwise, we don't buy at all," says the owner.







"My favorite part of the process was purchasing home accessories. Some of our stuff were purchased from the States during our month-long vacation there," shares the lady of the house. A variety of well-curated pieces find their homes in the niche shelving that lines the wall on one side of the dining room.

**Right:** Asian elements are carried through into the master bedroom, with fretwork details on the sleek mirrored night tables and textured wallpaper reminiscent of stone walls popularly used in traditional Chinese homes. "It was fun working with Tania," says the owner of their collaboration with Tania. "She was able to provide creative ideas that both tied in with our tastes and stayed within budget."

**Below:** In contrast to the warm and earthy common areas of the home, the bedrooms were kept within the cooler end of the color spectrum, playing on tones of blue and gray—perfect for getting into a relaxed and more restful state of mind.



*“We love to travel, so we thought of recreating the look and feel of some of the places we visited”*



Cushioned bench seating that wraps around one side of the master bath makes for a relaxed space that invites you to loosen up, put your feet up, and take a break from the hustle and bustle outside. Wood, stone, and glass finishes complement each other within the neutral space, allowing for the greenery outdoors to be its best accessory.





A basic study area is the best motivation for avoiding unnecessary clutter. Here, the minimalist corner of the girls' room is brought to life by a classic chair upholstered in dainty fabric. Its mesh backrest keeps it from looking too heavy within the space. An intricately patterned rug gives the space a finished look without looking over-the-top.



Pattern play and pops of yellow in the girls' bedroom give it a punch of youthful vibrancy while still keeping with the sophisticated feel the entire home exudes. A shared night table adds a classic element to the space, while blending perfectly into the overall design story.



*“We wanted to add more life to our home through the use of colors and textures. With the exception of the kitchen, none of the walls are white, but we still stuck to neutral colors”*

Edgier than the rest of the rooms in the home, the boy's room is made dynamic by a play on lines and angles. Darker furniture pieces set against vivid blue walls keep the space from looking too hard while maintaining a masculine feel.







The cool vibe of the balcony perfectly offsets the hot Manila weather. The mixing and matching of contemporary and traditional elements is taken outside with a pair of modern mesh chairs alongside a pair of classic floor lanterns.



Originally designed as a billiards room, the space has continuously evolved. Now, it is designed around a rare piece by Kenneth Cobonpue: a glass-topped shark table made of solid ash and steel instead of his usual wicker or PVC.





# STORIES AND STOREYS

Tessa Prieto-Valdes' vibrant home is a compilation of travels, memories, and style

Written by **Katrina Torres** | Photographed by **Mike Cuevas of Studio 100**



As you enter the front doors, an intricately carved wooden bench invites you to take a seat next to a variety of brightly colored pillows. A portrait of Tessa Prieto-Valdes and her daughter anchors the space between two delicate wall chandeliers.

When Tessa Prieto-Valdes was given the opportunity to transform her childhood Makati address into her new home, the interior designer and lifestyle ambassador knew it would be every bit a reflection of her distinct style. A living space that is as eclectic, colorful, and fun as the bold fashion she is known for, the place has become as much a part of her story as it is home.

From the get-go, Tessa has been very hands-on, going so far as drafting the initial architectural plans herself. (She studied Architecture for two years at the University of Santo Tomas before going abroad and shifting to Interior

Design.) With curved walls, large doors, and wide floor-to-ceiling windows, the space is bright, open, and yet still very intimate.

The overall design is inspired by Tessa's trip to Venice, one of her favorite cities, as the house takes on intricate plasterwork on the ceiling, vibrant tiling on the walls and pool area, elaborate drawing curtains that separate the stairway, and finely crafted Murano glass lighting fixtures. The sea theme is also prevalent throughout, owing to Tessa and her husband, Dennis Valdes', love for the ocean—hence their nicknames, the Sea Princess and the Sea Pirate.









True to Tessa's personal style, her home is accentuated by a diverse array of colors, textures, and patterns. They come in the form of trinkets, gifts, artwork, family pictures, fabric, paint, and many other personal touches that regularly change over time, depending on Tessa's new party theme or her general design inclination that season. "It's always an exciting adventure when you get here," shares Tessa, explaining further that "each piece has its own story to tell."

Many times, these items are mementos from her trips, ranging from colorful Peruvian mirrors to the Madonnas from Greece. She also admits that her home's interior design is mostly influenced by such explorations. Currently, it's everything Africa. There are paintings of tribal warriors from the continent, brightly hued masks from Botswana, animal skin rugs, polished horns, ostrich eggs, and peacock feathers, to name a few.

When she's not traveling, Tessa likes to tap contemporary brands such as Moss Manila Home. Headed by sisters Cyndi Fernandez-Beltran and Happy Fernandez-Victorino, it carries exclusively designed furniture pieces, and elegantly edgy décor that are perfectly suited to Tessa's unique tastes. Among her other staple hunting places are Mandaue Foam, especially for their assortment of pillows, and Wilcon Depot, which houses a variety of mirrors and accessories.

A curation of interests, stories, and memories, Tessa has created an eclectic and warm family home that stays true to her unique brand of design. 🏠

With its high ceiling and large glass windows adorned with elaborate Venetian-inspired plasterwork, the main living area is one of the brightest areas of the house. Following her design philosophy that bigger spaces can hold bigger items, Tessa has chosen large furniture pieces to complete the room. Interestingly, although they are noticeably different, the seating pieces tie up nicely to create a contemporary European look. The burst of pillows also helps to hold the theme together, as the colors are grouped from blues to reds to yellow-greens. The play of zebra and cowhide rugs on the wood flooring likewise gives a fun twist to this vibrant space.

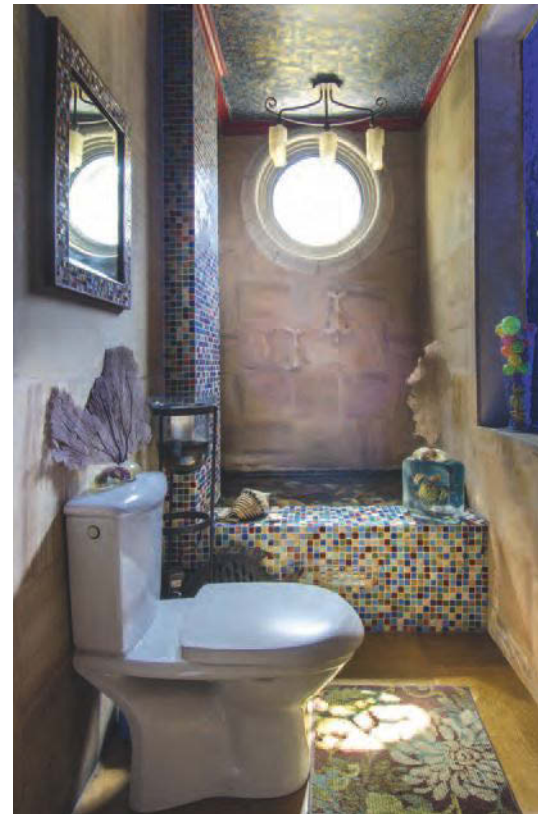


The sunlit living area welcomes you to the center of the home. It is adorned by lush Venetian-inspired couches that are perfect for taking in the full view of the space—from the vibrant outdoor pool and warm dining area to the faux-gilded high ceiling, and elaborate plasterwork.





*“It’s always an exciting adventure when you get here because each piece has its own story to tell”*



**Left:** Capturing a fusion of Venetian, African, and even Asian styles, the smart use of lush fabrics, elegant furniture, bold colors, and nature-inspired touches creates a cohesive look.

**Above:** The wash area achieves a cool and calming atmosphere, thanks to the beautiful Venetian tiling and lighting, and the soft sea-themed elements.



Above the gold-toned dining room hangs a delicate Venetian lighting piece made of silk and handpainted with gold leaf. Below, one of Tessa's choice finds—an intricately carved old, wooden table.





At the corner of the dining area stands the Ed Castrillo sculpture, which was a permanent fixture from the old house and was once in the garden. When rebuilding their house, Tessa and her husband Dennis decided to specifically design the space around this artwork.





Continuing the African theme upstairs, the zebra print and animal skin rugs also add the right amount of contrast against the dark wood floors. On the walls, a collection of artwork provides welcome pops of color. Paintings are a particular design favorite of Tessa's, as in her own words, they are "windows that can change the composition and energy of the space."







The bedrooms were designed to fully represent those living in them. For her own sleeping quarters, Tessa admits she often changes the color of the walls. Following the *feng shui* philosophy of colors and its related energies, she has gone from blood red to gold and now silver, highlighting it further with metallic accents. The room also pulls together a variety of textures from fur to wood and fabric—reflecting Tessa's playful personality.



The nook leading to the family's playroom is another good example of European and African fusion, designed to create a balanced, eclectic, and stimulating environment.





The outdoor pool area is given a Venetian treatment through the careful use of colorful and intricate tile work. The focal point here is the mosaic starfish, which represents the family's fascination with the sea.



An elaborately carved armoire from Burma is guaranteed to catch the eye in the living room. "The gold leaf is excellent," says entrepreneur Petteri Makitalo. "It's really nice." His wife, Joyce, says of the space: "We do meditation here, even with big groups. It's so powerful when people come here and meditate. Wow, the next day it's so clear."



# ELEVATED ECLECTICISM

Jewelry designer Joyce Makitalo walks us through  
her vibrant bohemian home

*Written by* Andrea Portugal | *Photographed by* Mark Jacob of Studio 100



White walls across the home provide a bright crisp background for the Makitalos' extensive art collection. A painting by Loreto Racuya is the central piece among works by various artists. "In 2006, Racuya exhibited this painting at the Indian Ambassador's house," explains Petteri. "The painting is from a postcard from India that Racuya's father, who was working there as a Jazz musician, sent to him in the 1940s." Antique chairs upholstered in emerald green fabric lend a regal air to the space.







On purchasing antique mirrors, jewelry designer Joyce Makitalo suggests buying the frame only and getting new mirrors instead. "The frame of this one is antique Vietnamese," she shares. On her choice of accessories on the Qing dynasty console, she adds, "I'm attracted to church paraphernalia. Even with my jewelry, I find that even if I try to make my pieces look modern, touches of traditional influence still come out."





The living area retains a bright and airy vibe elevated by the trove of antique and storied pieces that fill it. Petteri and Joyce have a story to tell for practically every piece revealing complimentary passions—his being history and hers being art. “In the beginning, I thought, what do we really have in common?” shares Joyce. “Looking at this place and what we’ve built together, it shows that we do have a lot of things in common.”



## HOMES

It can be said that there are homes in which stories are born and homes which are born out of stories. On one hand, a family may opt to fill their home with new items that, over time, come to grow in value, whether sentimental or otherwise. On the other hand, a family may prefer to bring into their new home pre-loved items in which value (again, sentimental or otherwise) has already accumulated, giving the new owners a chance to add their own rich layer to the said pieces' history. Stepping into the threshold of the Makitalo residence, and taking one sweeping glance over the colorful and intricately designed pieces that fill the space, there is no doubt that theirs is a home born out of stories.

For Joyce, her husband Petteri, and their three young children, home is a reflection of their shared love for art, history, music, and stories. Paintings big and small, created by local and foreign artists alike (some by Joyce herself), framed and unframed, hung on or leaning against the walls, are constant elements in every room. "We like changing the ones that go on the walls," explains Petteri. "Deciding can take years." He has a story to tell for practically every piece—from the beautifully upholstered antique chairs in the living room to the gilded Italian trays used to serve snacks—each one being a mini history lesson, equally unique and fascinating.

In the living room, a brilliant medley of prints and colors is anchored down by a plush violet *Chesterfield* sofa. The embellished coffee table from Kashmir in India once doubled as a play pen for the kids. "When they were babies, we would put them inside because you could lift off the top and so they couldn't escape," Joyce shares laughing. The multi-colored throw pillows handwoven in Ilocos Sur are from actress Dina Bonnevie's collection, *La Bon Vie*.











A break from the solid white walls in the dining room adds dimension to the space while giving it a slightly modern twist. Against the wood framed wall is a painting of Hindu god Gopala that sits between two ancient Chinese dragon candleholders from the 18th century. "These were a find. I got them from an antique dealer, who has a big antique collection and was the doctor of Cory Aquino," says Petteri. "What happened was, Joyce had to go meet a supplier, and I was just outside on the street with nothing to do. There was this big antique gate, and I thought, 'Wow, that's really fascinating.' So I went and knocked on the door. They let me in and inside was a trove of antiques."





"The dining table is a countryside table from Burma that we got from Ito Kish," says Petteri. "Joyce and I designed the chairs and just had them made." He adds, "We entertain quite often. The kids' friends come. There's a lot of song and dance here." On display on this side of the family gallery are works by Cesar Buenaventura, Dominador Castaneda, and a painting by Petteri's own great grand uncle.

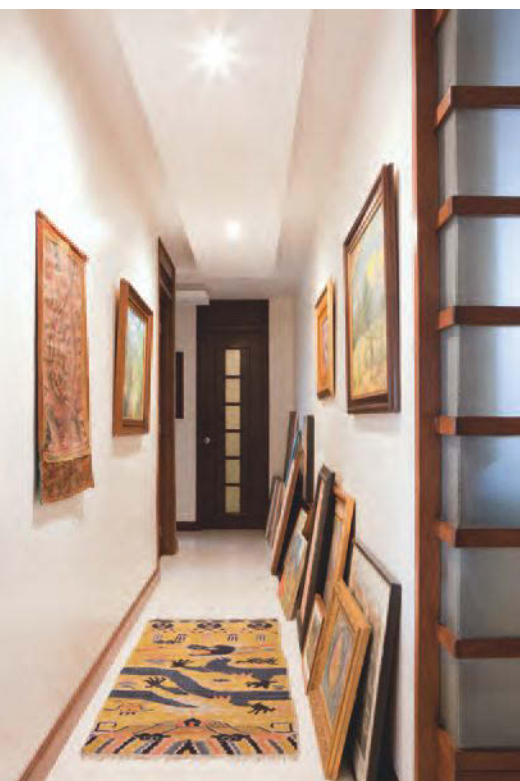
*Joyce and Petteri's home  
is a reflection of their shared  
love for art, history, music,  
and stories*



## HOMES

“Our style just kind of blended,” shares Joyce. “I like bohemian art and antiques. He likes antiques because of the history aspect, because he loves history. It’s always interesting to have something that looks old and that has a story.” While the home’s design style is arguably eclectic by definition, for Joyce it goes deeper than that. This is a space where stories intertwine, creating a constant flow of energy that inspires creativity and harmony in the home. “Joyce is extremely creative,” says Petteri of his wife. “She loves pieces that tell a story, that express something, or that inspire her to make a jewelry collection.”

Surrounded by pieces with inherently vivid pasts, and rooted in a faith that is in itself colorful and rich (the family practices Vaishnavism, a branch of Hinduism), the Makitalo home is a trove of stories from the past that weave themselves into the family’s own vibrant stories as they unfold in the present. With each of the Makitalos having strikingly charming personalities, nothing could be more fitting. 🏠



More paintings line the hallway leading to the kids’ bedroom and Petteri’s study. Among these are works by Cebuano master Gamaliel Subang, The Father of Print Making (in the Philippines) Manuel Rodríguez, and Joyce herself—including a portrait she did of her husband. “She’s surrealistic, so she paints by feeling and not by sitting,” explains Petteri.



An antique classic French-style armchair is placed next to an Indonesian table in the master bedroom, and is illustrative of the Makitalos’ sophisticated yet genuine east-meets-west style. Their common ground, however, is India. “We had an Indian wedding. It was officiated by a brahmi in the Coconut Palace,” shares Joyce. “I’m drawn to Indian art and culture in general. The philosophy is very nice. It’s very accepting,” says Petteri.

*“Joyce loves pieces that tell a story, that express something, or that inspire her to make a jewelry collection”*



In a corner of the master bedroom, a Leeroy New sculpture is used by Joyce to display her personal jewelry pieces. Beside it is an ornate antique brass lamp with beautifully carved patterns from Mindanao. An Indonesian painting hangs on the wall, but is subject to be replaced with a work of Subang's son. "We fight about what goes up," laughs Petteri. "It takes years to decide."





Deep earth-toned accessories around and atop a chest of drawers in a corner of the living room are made vibrant by natural sunlight streaming in. Having three young children in a house full of antiques has not always been smooth-sailing. "These are ancient Chinese jars, and a piece broke off one of them when my son was skateboarding inside the house," relates Joyce. "Petteri almost fainted." Her husband adds grinning, "I told my son, 'You will inherit that.'"







"My latest work is always my favorite," Joyce says of her paintings. She describes painting as a constant outlet for her creativity, but shares that nowadays her focus is more on jewelry design. Her current piece blends right into the balcony setting and is reflective of her deep spirituality.





The Asian contemporary home of management consultant Sherwin Santos is a reflection of his multi-layered personality. Classic furniture pieces are paired with wooden elements; neutral color schemes are injected with subtle hints of color; and realism paintings are displayed alongside modern artworks. "If you're his friend," says Sherwin's interior designer, Jen Sohu, "you would know that even though he thinks straight in business, his mind is very diverse."





# COMING BACK HOME

Always on business trips, a homeowner builds an abode inspired by five-star accommodations

Written by Cy Yambao | Photographed by Mike Cuevas of Studio 100

From the beginning, Sherwin was already decided on placing an Arturo Luz artwork in the foyer. "This is part of his *Cities of the Past* series," says Sherwin. "Luz's fine lines are reminiscent of the blueprints my dad worked with as an engineer. We decided to place it in the foyer to imply that like a city, the house offers lots of nooks to explore."

The opportunity to travel the world for work comes with a number of perks, one of which is being able to spend a night or two at the most luxurious hotels and beach resorts across the globe. But for management consultant Sherwin Santos, his business trips proved to be of greater purpose, as these taught him to find a home in each of the hotels he has stayed at—and eventually build a house that would make him feel like he's living in one.

"Hotels have been a part of my life and strangely, I feel at home in them," shares Sherwin. "I'm always fascinated by their streamlined and cohesive interiors." It took the expertise of interior designer Jen Sohu, whom Sherwin met by chance while scouring for lights at a home depot, to create a two-storey dwelling that exudes the same resort-like ambiance and carries a timeless design aesthetic. "Having been to so many places, there were a ton of ideas I wanted Jen to implement, but she helped me focus on a few themes and work within a realistic budget," adds Sherwin.

The home ended up with an Asian contemporary theme, which is the most appropriate style to define Sherwin's diverse character. His preference for classic pieces didn't quite blend with the original structure of the house, but Jen found ways to make the elements work harmoniously with one another. She employed a neutral color palette, installed rustic accent walls on both floors, paired tufted and studded with wooden furniture pieces, and combined realism paintings with more modern artworks. Even though Jen was given free rein in generally every aspect of home decorating, spaces were designed according to Sherwin's lifestyle, and are all intended as places of rest and relaxation.

"Jen helped me realize that what makes a house comfortable is if it becomes an extension of the owner's identity and personality. We had long conversations before we started working on the project, and she asked a lot about how I see myself in the house," says Sherwin. "So while it's nice to be bold here and there, it will really feel like home if you instead stick to your preferences—unless, of course, you're building the house for someone else." 🏠



## HOMES

The accent wall in the living room, which is covered in exterior wallpaper, provides added rusticness to the already eclectic theme of Sherwin's house. "I found a way to align this portion with the structure that's mainly Balinese," says Jen. "It's just a matter of finding the right materials for the wall accent, so that there's continuity in design."







Ninety percent of the furniture pieces in the house were custom-made, including these tufted dining chairs and glass-topped wood-and-steel table. “We had to make the set smaller, so that there’s still space around when you pull the chairs,” says Jen. Rustic elements are paired with classic pieces, while light wood is contrasted by darker shades of fabrics.

*“Having been to so many places, there were a ton of ideas I wanted my interior designer to implement, but she helped me focus on a few themes and work within a realistic budget”*

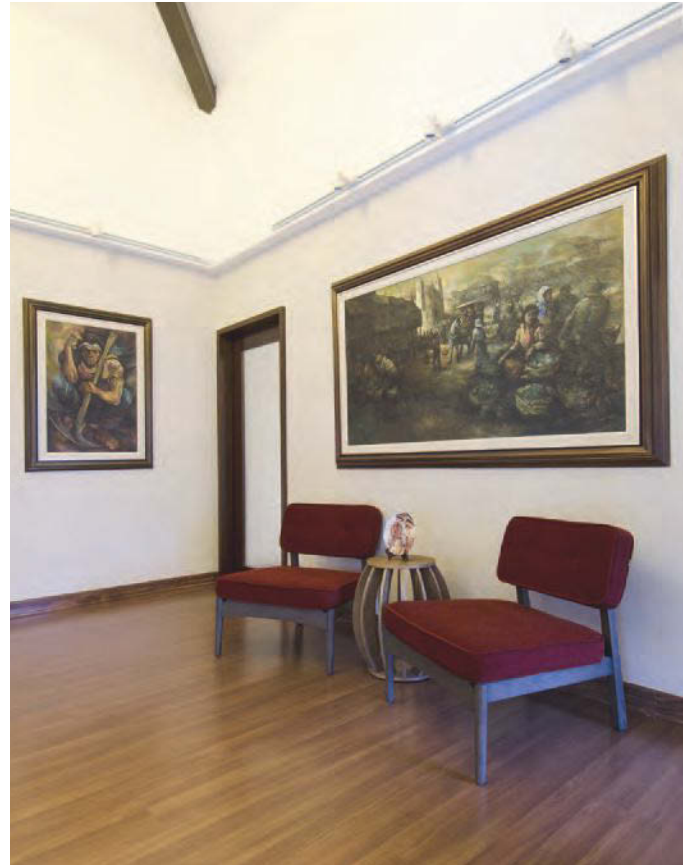




"Our family and friends have deep appreciation for food, so it goes without saying that the kitchen is our favorite place," says Sherwin. "We would always gather here to chat while munching on food. Good thing the pantry is within reach, so I try to keep it full at all times."







**Left:** Despite agreeing with majority of his interior designer's suggestions, Sherwin's non-negotiable was having ample space to display his artworks. By the staircase is a large modern *Prieto* abstraction, which is a commissioned piece by Ivan Acuña and was therefore customized according to the wall's dimensions. "The bright red and gold hues give boldness to the otherwise neutral hues of the house and are indicative of strong fortune," says Sherwin. Its colors complement the adjacent painting by Juvenal Sanso, which the homeowner intentionally placed in front of the staircase to make the climb a *Glorifying Experience*. **Right:** Sherwin is a big collector of realism paintings, and the gallery curator he consulted with placed all the realism pieces in this part of the house. "Both artworks are by Salvador Cabrera, older brother and mentor of national artist BenCab. He has a particular style of realism that evokes emotion and thinking when pondered upon," shares Sherwin.



*“Jen Sohu helped me realize that what makes a house comfortable is if it becomes an extension of the owner’s identity and personality”*

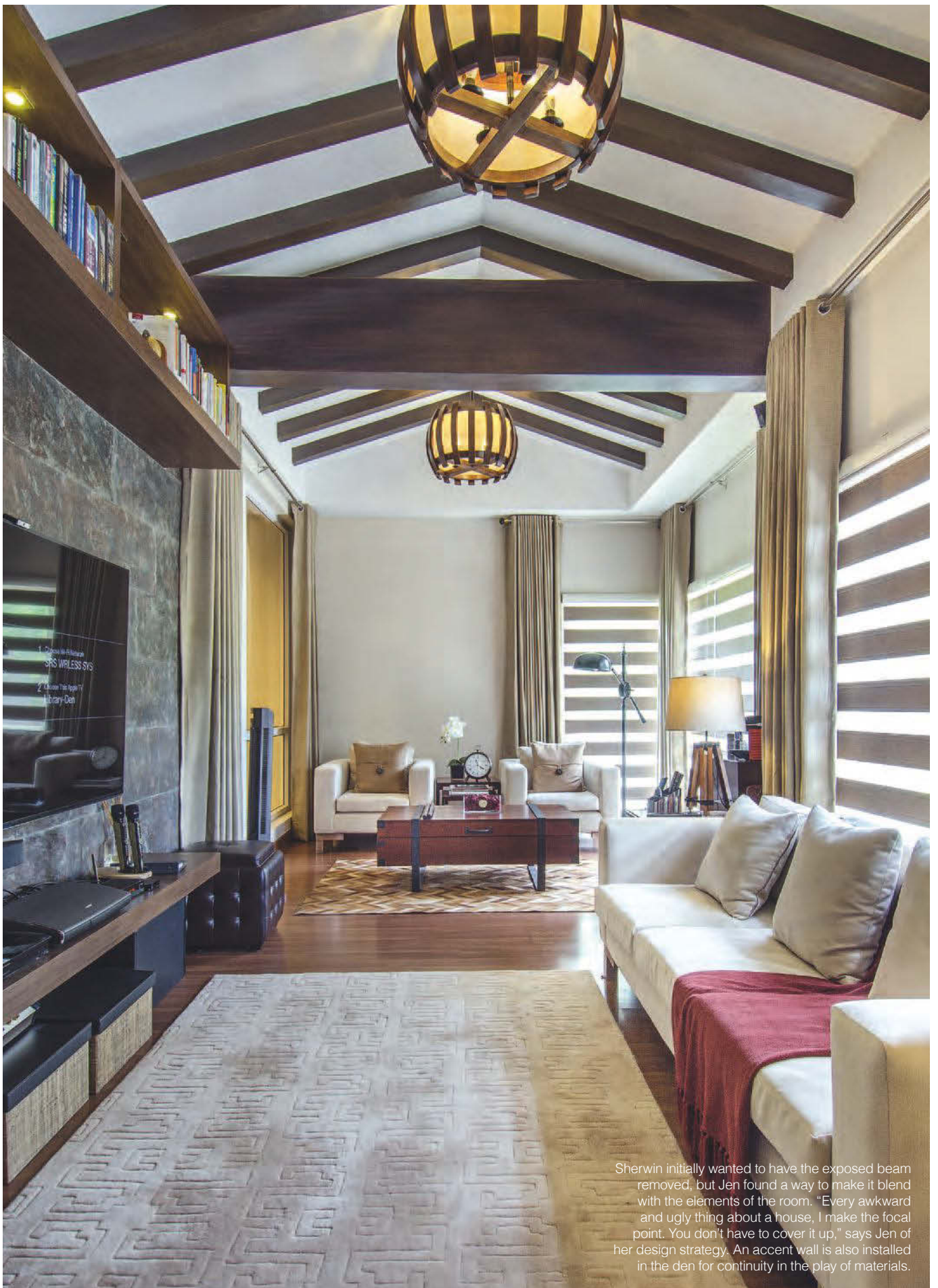


This five-layer bookshelf actually doubles as a secret door to another set of shelves filled with Sherwin’s collections of DVDs and whiskeys. Jen recalls that it used to be a one-meter-deep niche, so she suggested converting the space into a secret area that would surprise guests.



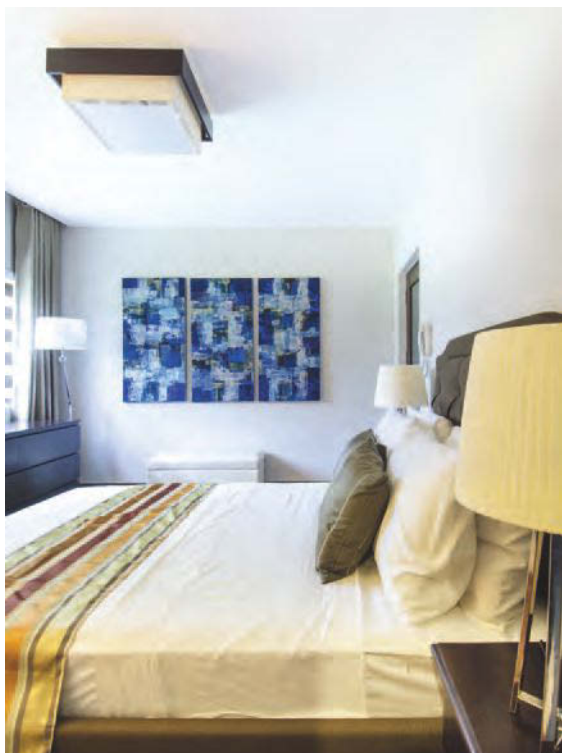
“We wanted the den to be the favorite room, but that didn’t happen because we really gather in the kitchen,” shares Sherwin. The one-seater couch on the left is what he refers to as the Captain Seat because its position provides a good view of the entire house.





Sherwin initially wanted to have the exposed beam removed, but Jen found a way to make it blend with the elements of the room. "Every awkward and ugly thing about a house, I make the focal point. You don't have to cover it up," says Jen of her design strategy. An accent wall is also installed in the den for continuity in the play of materials.





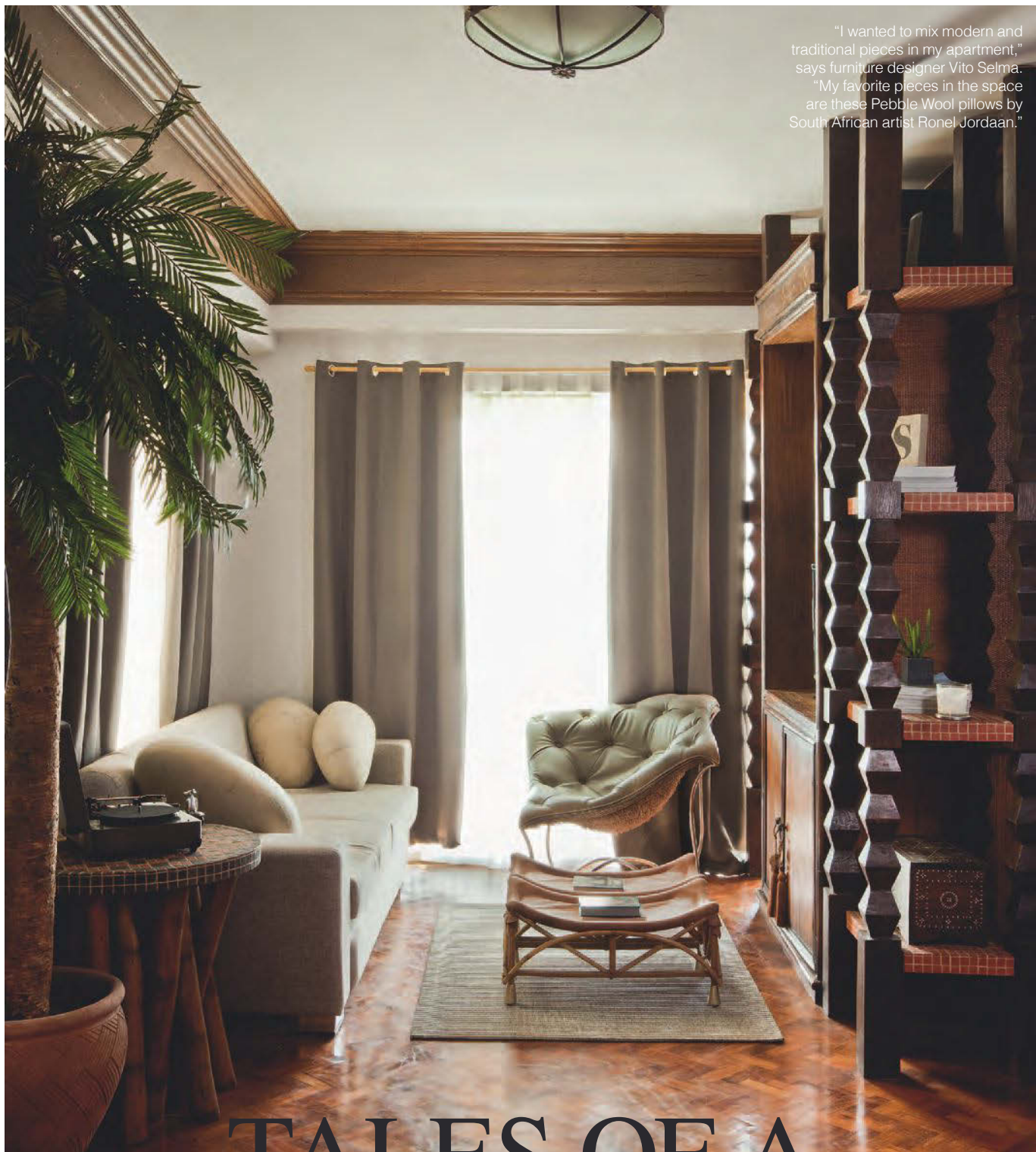
**Top:** "I like the series because I am a fanatic of *BMW* cars," says Sherwin, referring to Ivan Acuña's three-piece series called *BMW*, which shares the same hues as the luxury brand's logo. He refers to this room as the Acuña Room, as another *Prieto* piece by the same artist hangs on the wall. **Above:** Sherwin has the habit of naming his house's rooms after artists, thus the Gutierrez Room is anchored on the *Cityscape* painting by Romeo Gutierrez. "He has a distinct way of layering and texturing his artwork, which somehow makes it difficult to produce," says Sherwin. "The room has similar attributes, and it was also a bit of a challenge to render this room without compromising uniqueness."





The ceiling design in the master bedroom reminds Sherwin of his numerous stays at a luxurious resort hotel in Boracay, but Jen says it is more similar to those in Palawan. "They use *nipa*, though, which is a bit too native for the house's aesthetic," explains Jen. "I wanted to do something more polished, so I opted for water hyacinth instead."





"I wanted to mix modern and traditional pieces in my apartment," says furniture designer Vito Selma. "My favorite pieces in the space are these Pebble Wool pillows by South African artist Ronel Jordaan."

# TALES OF A WORLD TRAVELER

Furniture designer Vito Selma's new apartment speaks of frequent travels, diverse cultures, and endless inspirations

*Written by Cy Yambao | Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100*



**Left:** This nook is Vito's favorite corner in the apartment, as he enjoys leaning back on the Pebble Wool pillows adorning the sofa right by the vinyl player. "I like staying home a lot," he says. "A glass of wine and good music are my everyday companions."  
**Below:** Seated on one of Vito's most iconic designs, the *Paisley* chair, is Thiago. "He belongs to my sister, but because she lives in New York now, I take care of him."



While most homeowners transfer addresses to acquire a bigger floor area, internationally renowned furniture designer Vito Selma takes the road less travelled and moves into a smaller space instead. "I was living in a two-bedroom apartment, and it was more space than I needed," he says. "Also, change is always a good idea."

Change, however, doesn't have to be drastic at all times, as Vito's new apartment follows an eclectic theme just like his previous home. "I wanted it to be a mix of modern, tropical, and rustic," he says of the

various design styles dominating his home, which he is renting from his old boss and mentor, George de Haast. "He lives and works in Johannesburg, but has had this apartment for the past 10 years for his yearly visits. He has been renting this out for the past five years, and this year, I decided to rent it myself."

Because Vito is not so fond of colors, the originally orange walls had to be painted a lighter shade of gray to also generate more breathable spaces. Majority of the furniture pieces were replaced, except for a few that Vito found interesting such as the four-poster bed that George personally





Vito's workspace consists of pieces from his own collections: the *Bolt* desk, *Bongo* lamps, and an unnamed chair made of coco shells and stainless steel. Hanging on the wall is one of the photographs he took in Namibia.





Complementing the tree trunk dining table it sits on is a wooden sculpture that Vito purchased from furniture store A11. The chairs provide a modern contrast to the dominantly wood elements in the space.



## HOMES

designed, the mosaic mirror in the dining area, and the ceiling lights. “I wanted it to still have the character of the old apartment but with a modern and cleaner look,” explains Vito.

Memorable souvenirs from Vito’s endless travels still find a home in his new apartment, serving as constant reminders of the places he’s been given the opportunity to learn more about. The portrait of a Namibian woman by Vito’s desk, for example, immortalizes the natives he has come across while studying in South Africa. “I’m a culmination of everything I see, the countries I visit, and the many cultures I meet,” he says. “I like this space because it shows inspirations of travel and culture, but you can’t pinpoint it exactly.”

Vito’s home definitely speaks of his personality and passions, influences and inspirations. “Your home is about you and no one else,” emphasizes Vito. “Don’t be afraid to put as much or as little of yourself in the walls and spaces of your home.” 🏠

“I love mosaic details all throughout the house,” says Vito. “It is in the baseboards, shaving, and mirrors around the apartment.”







"These are pieces collected across Africa," says Vito of the three accessories atop his *Geo* console table. "I got them from Amatuli, my favorite shop in the whole world that is in Johannesburg. The piece on the left is actually a skirt of a Namib girl."



*“Don’t be afraid to put as much or as little of yourself in the walls and spaces of your home”*



On Vito's bedside table is a lamp he made out of recycled tree trunks. Beside it is a wooden cabinet, which was already installed in the apartment upon moving in.





"My favorite furniture piece would have to be the bed," says Vito. "The owner of this apartment, George de Haast, is an interior designer, and he designed this bed himself. I like his take on a four-poster bed—it has so much personality."



# Designers without Borders

Grupo Santamaria's open-plan layout encourages collective effort and creative productivity

*Photographed by Mike Cuevas of Studio 100*



"I really wanted an open-plan office that could let me, as the principal designer, be accessible to my staff and vice versa," says interior designer Nina Santamaria. "My desk is small, but it has everything I need. My drawing pens, markers, and important reference books are all within reach."



**1. How would you describe your workspace?**

Functional, inspiring, and open

**2. What do you love most about your workspace?**

I love that the space feels both like an office and a design studio. It has a semi-open plan, but sliding canvas panels efficiently divide the space when needed. It's organized and comfortable enough for clients to meet over projects and coffee, and yet my staff can work on their own without being distracted. It's a very conducive place to be creative.

**3. Do you have a daily ritual before starting your work day?**

I need to have proper breakfast at home. I can't function properly without it!

**4. Are you more productive in the morning or evening?**

I used to be a night owl, working until 2am because it's the quietest time in the office, with no calls or disturbances. But I got sick because of it and had to change my lifestyle. Now, if I have to work undisturbed, I wake up early and go to the office before everybody else.

**5. Which object in your office are you most sentimental about?**

The fish paper clamp on my desk, which belonged to my grandmother. Our family was into the fishery business, and I think it was part of a pair that she's still using on her desk now. I like feeling connected to her randomly in that way. Another one is the *Saranggola* sculpture by Michael Cacnio, which sits in our war room to be enjoyed by my staff and interns. It was my first real art purchase 10 years ago, and it's supposed to remind me to keep dreaming and aiming high.

**6. What are the three things you must have while working?**



Music on, drawing pencil poised, and agenda book open

**7. Do you prefer silence or listening to music while working?**

I need music, definitely! Depending on the time of day, I listen to a lot of genres. Usually it's jazz in the morning and electronic dance music in the afternoon. If I need to jump up my system, I listen to 90s rock.

**8. What are you currently reading?**

*The Line of Beauty* by Allan Hollinghurst

**9. Where do you get inspiration from?**

From nature, my travels, and art. I get inspired by the work of other artists and designers, too.

**10. What is your work mantra?**

Whatever you're working on, work at it with all your heart. It will show. 🏠

"It is constantly evolving as mementos from travels, art exhibits, tear-outs from magazines, and fabric swatches get pinned and removed from time to time," says Nina of her photo wall. "Some things never leave the board though, like photos of family and friends, and the Blessed Virgin Mary."



"The war room (left) is a place where we stock our swatches and reference books, and is also where we assemble material boards," says Nina. "Back in the day, when my office was smaller, the war room was also where we brainstormed for projects. But when I expanded, we allotted a separate meeting room (above) just for that and for entertaining clients."



Makeup by Lynn Niduaiza



"My design style is usually casual and elegant, inspired and approachable. The open flow of space in the office conveys this, complemented by some art pieces I have collected through the years," says interior designer Nina Santamaria, when asked how her design principles are reflected in Grupo Santamaria's office. In her team are (left to right) Jasmine Hapatinga, Lenée Mora, Jessie-R Monsanto, and Natalia Leuterio.





# Closet Upgrade

Your guide to a functional wardrobe

Written by Razel Estrella | Photos courtesy of Molteni & C

If well-organized, the closet can be your favorite part of the room (aside from your bed, of course). It can be that space you'll keep coming back to, especially when filled with clothes, shoes, and accessories that serve as armors to help you take on whatever the world throws your way. When your closet is a mess, however, it can be a nightmare. You might be late for work or a special event if, despite your closet being filled with all the necessities, you don't know where to find what and are not able to fish out an appropriate outfit. Spare an afternoon or an entire day to making that closet functional. Here are guidelines to get you started.

## Organizing Tips

There are basically two types of closets: walk-in and reach-in (or wall). The former, as the name suggests, is a small room you can enter that has more storage given its size. The latter, also called a wall closet, is built into the wall and is probably common among many households. There are also wardrobes or free-standing cabinets, which offer smaller space but can be moved around the house.

It doesn't matter which type you have; the same organizing principles apply.

1. **Filter.** Get rid of items you don't need, but instead of sifting through the entire closet to weed out the inessentials, take everything out and then pick the pieces you actually need. Whatever is left, donate or sell. (Hint: If you haven't used an item for over two years now, chances are you'll never use it.) Do this editing process annually.





2. **Clean.** Wipe the closet with a cloth or scrub. Depending on its material and finish, use products that help eliminate germs.
3. **Sort.** Create categories and sub-categories. The fewer the better. Take the department stores and boutiques as models. You can either sort by type (shorts, pants, blouses, dresses, and skirts) or by dress code (casual, formal, business, cocktail, and sports or outdoors). Consider your lifestyle as well. If you don't go to parties often and are more into chilling at the mall, then the cocktail dresses shouldn't be the first thing you see when you open the closet.

### Storage Solutions

If you have smaller storage space or would like to get some useful organizing tools, here are a few.

1. **Foldable mesh boxes** are easy to clean and store away when not in use. These can also serve as replacements for drawers when your closet doesn't have enough.
2. **Collapsible hanging shelves** provide more vertical space. You can put lighter items like t-shirts or caps on them. There are also hanging shelves designed for storing shoes.
3. **Dividers** are used for storing smaller garments like socks, hankies, belts, and scarves. You can buy drawer dividers in stores or make your own from cardboard or unused boxes.



4. **Scarf and belt hangers** lessen the hassle of having to drill holes on your closet door.
5. **Vacuum-sealed bags** are used by travelers to put more clothes in their suitcases, as these may be the answer to saving space. Use these for rarely touched items like those hiking jackets you only wear every summer.

The convenience of having a multifunctional wardrobe is now at your doorstep, as Moteni & C introduces technologically and aesthetically avant-garde *Gliss Master*. The innovative wardrobe is packed with all possible storage options: a pull-out shirt rack, pull-out drawers and trays, shoe racks, a belt and tie rack, and a jewelry case.



**BRUNCH**

Sprinkle some sunshine on your table setting by accentuating it with colourful fruits and blooms. Take your cue from Kaye, who uses seasonal fruits like peaches and pomegranate to complement the lush greens and provide a contrast to the wooden long table. "My anchor piece is actually this table because its rustic appeal is appropriate for brunch. The setup is very summery and at one with nature," she says.



For style pioneer Kaye Tinga, there is no middle ground when it comes to entertaining. "I put too much effort in hosting—everybody has to leave with their stomachs full," she says. "There's no point if it's half-baked, so when my friends call for dinner tomorrow, for instance, I suggest eating out instead."

# In Full Bloom

Floral arrangements bring life to Kaye Tinga's table settings

Written by Cy Yambao | Photographed by Ed Simon of Studio 100

**K**aye Tinga, a style pioneer and the co-owner of home furnishings store W/17, is the first to admit that she has no penchant for huge table arrangements when entertaining. She personally prefers setups that appear to be flowing, which she manages to achieve through the help of her trusted friend and renowned florist Antonio Mabolo.

"I always like to have flowers. That's really the highlight for me," says Kaye. "Unless it's someone's birthday that I'm hosting, during which I work around what I know he'll like, I usually tend to create fresh and organic table settings." The simple yet attractive floral arrangements are complemented by Kaye's collection of dinnerware that includes pieces dating back to the early 1900s. "Even before I got married, I've always collected little things. My mother-in-law, when she was still alive, would also give me silver," she shares. "I have everything from IKEA to Royal Doulton to Wedgwood. I don't discriminate as long as it's something that I like."

Bangkok flea markets are one of Kaye's favorite haunts, and buying trips with her business partner Andy Vázquez-Prada typically involve shopping for their respective homes. "I take inspiration from things I've seen and combine them with things I have," says Kaye. "From there, I am able to mix and match." 🏠



### CASUAL DINING

Vietnamese noodles are appetizing in itself, but you can entice your guests even more by serving it in an irregularly shaped bowl crafted by local artisans. Casual gatherings, much like formal dinners, are a great opportunity to bring out your most prized possessions. Kaye especially loves this set of handmade plates, not because they're from W/17, but because it took a long journey to produce them locally.





**FORMAL DINNER**

"For formal occasions, especially business dinners, I tend to bring out the nicer things," shares Kaye. While she enjoys scouring through flea markets for unique finds, she very well knows that luxury dinnerware is made for a purpose. Kaye usually banks on little things, like this butter knife she particularly wanted to use, before being able to decide on the plates and glasses.







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# Open House

Bringing together a pool of creatives to give local artisanship a modern twist

Written by Cy Yambao | Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100

**C**ollaboration, as defined in the dictionary, refers to working with another person in order to achieve something. It is also the most ideal term to describe the vision of Open House, a furniture gallery that showcases local artistry through pieces designed by creative minds in the industry. Aside from serving as a venue where co-owners RG and Lyca Roa's modular furniture are displayed, the store also features the work of industrial designer Gabby Lichauco, who happens to be one of the business partners.

"We named it Open House because, eventually, we want to be able to work with a lot of up-and-coming designers. Once the store really takes off, we're open to manufacturing designs that maybe young interior designers and industrial designers have in mind but don't know where to go," narrates Lyca. Currently, Open House's range of products includes modular systems, furniture and accessories from Gabby's own line called Open Studio, his newer designs under the Open House brand, and consigned pieces from artists like S.C. Vizcarra, Stanley Ruiz, and Lilianna Manahan, to name a few.

Open House banks on locally sourced raw materials to produce modern designs, which speak of the brand's contemporary aesthetic. "A handful of people can imagine styling their homes with that kind of combination," says Lyca. "This basket chair, for instance, is solid wood and *solihya*, but the shape is more modern. We're trying to infuse that modern look into raw and traditional materials." Open House also introduces a special Japanese foam technology for their couches and an automated mechanism for tables, consoles, and windows. With all these ingenious ideas, it wouldn't be a surprise that Open House becomes a thriving hub for design enthusiasts in just a short span of time. 🏠



Open House aims to be a local hub where designers, both established and up-and-coming, can showcase their work. "Many stores take pride in the local merchandise, but I think one thing we have that they don't is an eye for special pieces," co-owner Lyca Roa says. "It's the little details that always make the difference. Our pieces are unique in that sense; not a lot you can find elsewhere."





Gabby Lichauco x Zacarias  
Candy Collection lamps,  
(left to right) P19,000,  
P6,000, and P6,000

Melissa La'O  
painting



Spring stool from  
Open Studio by Gabby  
Lichauco, P15,500



Brighton clock  
by Stanley Ruiz,  
P12,150



"A lot of the ideas for our pieces are intended for small spaces," shares Lyca, pointing out to this shelving system as an example. "People can use it as a desk, storage, and media console. This is one of the clever tools that prove to be essential when you don't have plenty of space."



Basket chair by Gabby  
Lichauco for Open  
House, P17,500



Handpainted plates  
by EVRYWHR,  
prices start at P250



Vase by Lilianna  
Manahan, P4,300



Pablo chair  
by Gabby  
Lichauco and  
S.C. Vizcarra,  
P47,000



Lace table from  
Open Studio by Gabby  
Lichauco, P10,000



# Rico's Lechon

Cebu's famous lechon brand gets a makeover

Written by Love Ocampo | Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100



Upon entering the giant wooden doors of Rico's Lechon, you are greeted by Vito Selma's *Rania* lounge chair; walls handpainted with banana leaves, in which *lechon* is served; and a sign guaranteeing that you will find "The True Taste of Cebu Lechon" in this restaurant.

The Queen City of the South is known for two things: it is home to some of the world's renowned furniture designers and it is where the best *lechon* (roasted pig) in the country is served. Rico's Lechon, a household name in Cebu's food industry, takes the dining experience to a new level as Cheryl Alba and Claire Dionson, daughters of the business tycoons who partnered for this particular branch, collaborate with homegrown talent Vito Selma to redecorate its interiors.

Despite Rico's Lechon now having a more modernized aesthetic, it still conveys a native ambiance that doesn't feel intimidating. The trio knew that the market needed a visually appealing place where both local and foreign guests can have a taste of the city's signature dish. They then decided for the interiors to be defined by beautifully handpainted banana leaves on the walls and ceilings, *banderita* pattern on the floor, *Bella* droplights that resemble native baskets, and Vito Selma's *Rania* and *Raina* chairs. 🏠



Similar to the peacock chairs woven in the 70s, the *Bella* droplights are made from *buri*. The *banderita* pattern on the floor represents the signature element used during *fiestas*.





Furniture designer Vito Selma calls this outdoor area his vertical bamboo garden. Surprisingly, this is the same material used in the older days to roast the pigs in.



**Above:** The private room is furnished with 7-foot *Raina* chairs that stand tall on both ends of the long glass table and bamboo droplights that mirror the table's legs. On the walls are handpainted murals of how Rico's Lechon's business began.



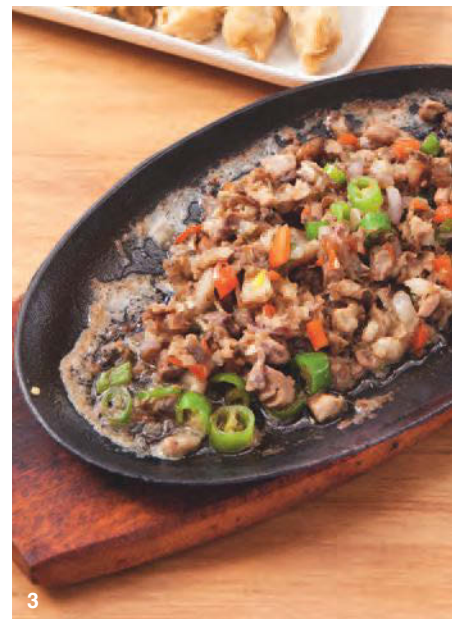
**Left:** Rico's Lechon's desserts are equally good! Try the Oreo Mango Float or Buko Pandan Tapioca for P60 each.



1



2



3

1. For starters, try the Baked Scallops (P190) and the Squid Balls (P140). 2. Customers keep coming back because Rico's Lechon cooks its meals with precision and to perfection. The restaurant flavors its lechon with only garlic and leeks—and people always wonder how these two simple ingredients can make such a delicious *lechon*. Make sure to try the Spicy Lechon (P175) or the Regular Lechon (P155) depending on your preference. 3. If you are still hungry and looking to try something else, Rico's Lechon also serves Lechon Sisig for P200.





"I believe that jewelry needs to be worn and not kept in the bank. It needs to make you happy," says Janina Dizon, the third-generation jewelry designer behind JANINA for Jul Dizon. "I draw inspiration from the Edwardian Art Deco era and find ways of modernizing it while paying respect to the past."



Blue Buddha head lapel pin in silver



Blackamora pendant with diamonds in silver and gold combination



Brown Buddha head lapel pin in silver



Geometric necklace with white sapphires and freshwater pearls in silver

Ring with green emerald, blue sapphires, and diamonds in 18k yellow gold

Earrings with citrine, blue topaz, and pear-shaped amethyst with gray agate drop in yellow silver

Ring with pink opal, fire opal, and diamonds in 18k rose gold

Gray stingray bracelet with black diamond in black silver

## Janina Dizon

This third-generation jewelry designer starts a legacy of her own

Written by Cy Yambao | Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100

Following your mother's footsteps, especially when she happens to be the woman behind the country's most-awarded jewelry store, can almost feel like a far-fetched dream considering the expectations you'd have to live up to. But Janina Dizon, who was born into a family of jewelers, banked on her early exposure to the craft in carving a name for herself in the industry.

"I apprenticed with her starting at 15," says Janina, referring to her mother and celebrated jewelry designer Jul Dizon. "In retrospect, making us sit next to her to observe how she respected clients and friends, to see how she seamlessly handled business and family, and to learn about her love of art and gems inspired me to follow her lead."

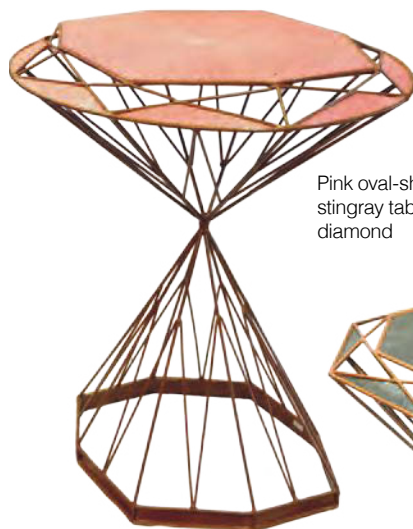
The interest in jewelry design does run in the blood, with Janina and her siblings continuing the legacy of their maternal grandmother, Paz Bañas, who began operating her own shop in Manila's old quarters in the 50s. It was when Janina came back from abroad in 2007 that she decided to also find her place in the business and launch her own brand.



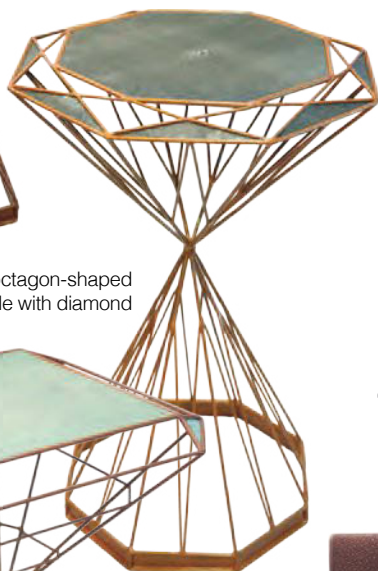
"It was daunting at first, but I realized that making my own business decisions was equally exhilarating. I felt very grown up," she narrates. Her jewelry designs can be described as the marriage of classic and modern elements, of Eastern and Western traditions, and of individuality and versatility. "I love mixing media," says Janina. "I would think that bringing stingray jewelry into the market was quite novel at the time—and I am probably still most known for it."

Janina makes use of the same material for her line of clutch bags (which utilizes other exotic skins like croc, ostrich, water snake, and lambskin) and collection of wrought iron side tables. "It was a natural evolution to branch out into bags and interior design. It is an extension of the art," she says. These gems for the home, as Janina calls them, blur the line between jewelry and furniture design. She explains how the manner in which the gemstones are cut shows that the skeleton frames of the stingray side tables were designed by a jeweler.

Despite having earned recognition in both the local and international markets, Janina continues to explore her passion and develop ingenious ways to further her craft. "I love what I do," she says. "I don't have any set plans, but I do trust the creative process of it all." 🏠



Pink oval-shaped stingray table with diamond



Black octagon-shaped stingray table with diamond



Mint green rectangular stingray table with diamond

Stingray cuff in snow color with assorted gemstones in silver



Tatjana clutch bag with brown python and water snake skin



Tate brown stingray clutch bag with strap



Jul Dizon's black diamond earrings with chrome drop and white diamonds in 18k white gold



Jul Dizon's necklace with turquoise, diamonds, peridot, and freshwater in 18k white gold

*"It was a natural evolution to branch out into bags and interior design. It is an extension of the art"*



Necklace with citrine and moonstone in silver





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# Design Like a Pro

Authored by designers, these books will inspire you to take charge of your home interiors



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Written by **Andrea Arines** | Photographed by **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**

## Mary McDonald Interiors: The Allure of Style by Mary McDonald

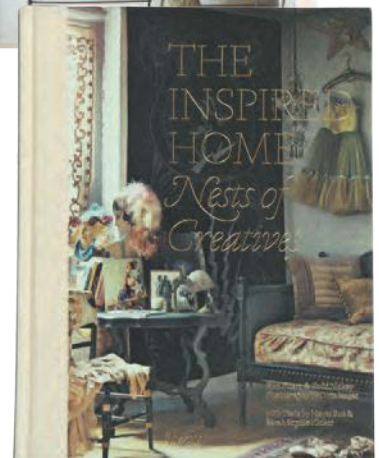
Multi-awarded designer Mary McDonald, who is also part of hit TV program *Million Dollar Decorators*, releases another book that shows how to fuse timeless elegance with out-of-the-box ideas in interior design. Each chapter of *Mary McDonald Interiors: The Allure of Style* gives you a peek of the author's exquisiteness, from which you can derive your own ways of matching various elements like colors, fabrics, and accessories. Filled with photographs that convey the marriage of vintage and contemporary styles, the book reflects spaces of glitz and glamour that are uniquely Mary McDonald's.

## The Inspired Home: Nest of Creatives by Kim Facaro and Todd Nickey

Helping you develop a creative eye, *The Inspired Home: Nest of Creatives* offers ideas that let your creative juices flow and encourage you to channel them towards personally designed interiors. Every page, which highlights the notion that the best creations come from one's inspirations, is meant to trigger emotions and encourage creativity. Let your imagination take its own course, as you break the norms of style, and create interiors that are unconventional and sophisticated at the same time.

## Timeless Style by Suzanne Kasler

*Timeless Style* is the perfect example of a coffee table book that proves how nothing



can beat the classics. Both an architect and an interior designer, Suzanne gives you ideas on pairing neutral hues with colorful accessories, and combining vintage and modern interiors. The book's collection of spaces that mix lavish antiques with modern accessories can serve as your inspirations for coming up with glamorous yet relaxed, classic yet organic designs. 🏠





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# Plantation Bay Resort and Spa

Experience the different flavors of life at Cebu's tropical plantation

*Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100*

*Additional photos courtesy of Plantation Bay Resort and Spa*

One of the largest waterways in the world, Plantation Bay Resort and Spa is a secluded dream getaway set within an 11.4-hectare privately owned property. It boasts of four freshwater pools and hectares of vast saltwater lagoons. Indulge in various forms of water therapy in the resort's numerous waterslides that vary in shape and length, bubble benches, whirlpools, mist caves, volcano fountains, and waterfalls.

Your entire family can also try outdoor sports and activities such as bird watching, biking, archery, boxing, wall climbing, golf pitch and putt, tennis, and beach volleyball. To recharge, the resort's in-house restaurants each have a wide menu to satisfy your hunger: tapas and pastas at Palermo, international dishes at Kilimanjaro Kafe, seafood and Asian favorites at Fiji, and fast food and grills at Savannah Grill. Plantation Bay Resort and Spa is definitely a world of its own, where adventure, discovery, and relaxation collide in a nature-inspired hideaway.



Plantation Bay Resort and Spa is one of the largest privately owned waterways in the world. It has four freshwater pools and saltwater lagoon, numerous waterslides, bubble benches, whirlpools, mist caves, volcano fountains, and waterfalls. Your children can also engage in sand castle building, face and T-shirt painting, fish-feeding, and boat racing.





Plantation Bay Resort and Spa has various rooms available: the Water's Edge room for couples who want a special and romantic place, the Lagoon Side room for couples and families who want convenient access to the water, the Lagoon View Room that has a better view of the lagoon, the poolside room offering a spacious sanctuary by the pool, and the special rooms catering to bigger groups and families.



Experience the unique ambiance and delicious dishes at the resort's four in-house restaurants namely Palermo, Kilimanjaro Kafe, Fiji (above), and Savannah Grill (below).



Mogambo Springs is a health and relaxation spa designed to resemble the 18th century Tokugawa Japanese village. Rejuvenate your body in a mineral bath; open your skin's pores through their hot spring; enjoy a hydro-massage in their waterfall basin; sweat out your toxins in their steam room or sauna; and reward yourself with a massage, reflexology, aromatherapy, or body scrub.



# Interior Inspirations

Turn your humble abode into a creative hub with these feng shui tips

Written by **Patti Sunio**

Illustrated by **Electrolychee Studio**

Nothing clears the mind and stimulates creativity better than an impeccably designed, well-groomed home. Following the rule of thumb in *feng shui*, de-cluttering equates to freeing your mind and soul from any negative inhibitions, thus making room for beautiful ideas.

As *feng shui* Master Hanz Cua puts it, “An orderly space invites the free flow of positive energy that will keep your wellspring of inspiration flowing.” Use your bedroom to energize and gather up all the good vibes that’ll influence how you’ll think and work. Meanwhile, the living room can serve as your free space to think, explore, and discover what you can create.

“Enhance wisdom and creativity by decorating the west sector of these rooms with metal elements,” recommends Master Hanz. In *feng shui*, metal represents strength and endurance, and promotes discipline and creativity. It can be supported by the nourishing elements of earth, too.

White, gold, silver, and gray represent metal, so consider these colors in furnishing your home. Art pieces and sculptures in brass, aluminum, bronze,

gold, silver, and stainless steel placed in the west sector of your living room and bedroom are good ways to promote creativity as well.

Other suggested home décor include *feng shui* cures

such as pyrite crystals, earth crystals, or crystal globes. The abacus charm is also known to enhance your wisdom and creative thinking.

“Even with setting up your home for creative

pursuits, challenge yourself and let your imagination run,” says Master Hanz. After all, that’s the point of growing and nourishing your style and design aesthetic. 🏠







### Rat

Brilliant ideas surround the Rat this month. It'll be an especially good time for planning and brainstorming with colleagues. Further this luck by placing a metal abacus on the west sector of your home's work area.



### Ox

This month, be careful with being too aggressive at work, particularly when it comes to proposing ideas or sharing your opinion. Remember to maintain a good working environment with officemates, and show that you're a game team player. An amethyst will help give your team that needed bond.



### Tiger

Health luck is at stake for Tigers this July, so regular check-ups and blood tests are advised. Keep in mind that early detection is better than cure. Tigers should also learn to appreciate subordinates and reward them for a job well done. Place a crystal in the west area of your home office for clarity of mind.



### Rabbit

It'll be a smooth-sailing month for Rabbits this July. Appreciate what you have, count your blessings, and don't be greedy. Be careful with legal documents and titles, and read them well before signing anything. A clear quartz also helps you think clearly and make wise decisions.



### Dragon

Be wary of backstabbers and untruthful people. Projects initially intended for you may be assigned to others instead. You may be prone to be cheated on this month, so be careful with who you trust and seek wisdom from elders. A black obsidian crystal displayed in the west sector of your home office can promote peace and clarity of mind.



### Snake

Financial transactions may be risky this July for Snakes, so postpone them until the next month, if possible. Wear a Pi Yao pendant to protect your wealth, as well as shield off all negative energy that may surround you this month.



### Horse

July is a relatively good month for the Horse. Conditions at work will improve, be it from a good negotiation with the big boss or a promotion. Romantic luck is strong as well, so enhance this with rose quartz, which promotes not only love luck, but also harmony and teamwork among colleagues.



### Sheep

Sheep are advised to be extra cautious with any major activity this July. You may have to go as far as postponing your plans until the next month. Sheep must be patient and think through situations first. A horse jade can help bring in positive luck.



### Monkey

Monkeys should take extra care of themselves this July as your health luck is weak. Romance luck, however, will be strong this month, so it's advised that you go out and socialize when you can. This will do your health good as well. Rose quartz and mandarin ducks further enhance your romantic luck.



### Rooster

Roosters will have enough opportunities for family bonding this July, so go out and enjoy your time together. However, Roosters should likewise be careful, as July looks to be an accident-prone month for you. A rhino elephant display or a lapis lazuli can help shield Roosters from harm.



### Dog

Dogs can look forward to a great July, as your career luck looks strong. This month is a good time to mingle and make possible connections that may help boost your career. Starting a new fitness plan is also recommended. An aquamarine can help improve your wisdom and creativity.



### Boar

July will generally be a positive month for Boars. You should remember to be thankful and visit the church when you can. Boars are also encouraged to try making new art, as your creativity star is activated this July. Wearing a labradorite can help stimulate your creative intuitions more. 🏠



Visit **Master Hanz Cua** at his 8 Treasures-House of Mystical Charms shop at 1/F EDSA Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City or get in touch with him at 0922 8290 382.



# Creative Expression

Fashion designer Maureen Disini's favorite home items carry stories of familial ties and lasting friendships

Produced by Cy Yambao | Photographed by Mark Jacob of Studio 100



1. "I love the unusual design of this **lamp** by Nova Mobili. It perfectly matches my modern furniture pieces."

2. "The **Astier di Villatte ceramic** from Univers was a Christmas present from my good friend Bea Ledesma. I love hand sculptures—they are so pretty to look at."

3. "I bought these **crystal obelisks** as a souvenir from one of my favorite cities in the world: Istanbul, Turkey."

4. "This **Sanso painting** was given to me by my dear friend

Raya Mananquil before she moved to the US. This going away gift is priceless for me."

5. "This is a **Patricia Urquiola chair** from Moroso. I love its sleek design and basically anything Italian."

6. "I love how Jinggoy Buensuceso's work of art doubles as **candelabra** at night. I find this useful when I throw dinners every now and then."

7. "I love the smell of burning **candles** after a long day at work. It calms me."

8. "I had a phase when I would scour flea markets all over Europe to find interesting things for my home, including these **antlers** from a flea market in Berlin."

9. "Arturo Luz is my ninong and I love everything that he makes, such as this particular **sculpture**. He serves as an inspiration to me."

10. "These **Fornasetti plates** are from my in-laws. They know I love them and got them for me as a present. I like displaying them as a reminder of their generosity."



Makeup by Lynn Nidua

"I would say it is relaxed modern," says fashion designer Maureen Disini of her design style at home. "I like it to look clean and spacious."



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